

# Categorical Exclusion Documentation

## A. Background

**BLM Office:** Prineville Field Office

**NEPA Log #:** DOI - BLM - OR – P060 - 2015 - 0005 - CX

**Proposed Action Title:** Mastondon Foot Race Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** The event will be staged at the Maston Trailhead and utilize designated trails in Townships 15 & 16 South and Ranges 12 East, approximately 5 miles West of Redmond, Oregon. See attached map for route detail.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to approve a Special Recreation Permit for Dave Thomason with Superfit Productions (hereafter, “Organizers”) to host a one day footrace event on designated trails in the Maston trail system in the Cline Buttes Recreation Area. The event is proposed for March 8, 2015. The maximum number of participants would be 100. Parking for the event would be provided at the Maston Trailhead large equestrian and bike overflow parking area. Participants would begin the race at 9 a.m. with most participants completing the course by 11 a.m. and the course would be cleared and closed at approximately 12 p.m. Organizers would remove all flagging and signage by March 9.

Organizers would use the Maston Trailhead as a staging area and clearly mark the race course route with temporary flagging and white, 8.5 x 11” signs as needed. BLM would sign the Maston and Juniper Trailhead signboards with 8.5 x 11” event signage the week prior and day of the race as well as informing trail user groups of the event well in advance. Additionally, BLM would post signs to remind bikers to yield to any runner they encounter along the trail. Participants would start the race at the staging area and run clockwise on the outermost mountain bike/pedestrian trail loop (see map). The course would be approximately 10 miles and would finish at the same location as the starting area.

Organizers would flag the route prior to the event and clean up all flagging within two days following the event. Trash and personal items would be removed at the end of the event by the race organizers. Toilet facilities are provided at the Maston Trailhead. Participants would be instructed to “pack it in, pack it out” and no participants would leave the marked course route. An EMT or ER nurse with First Aid supplies would be on hand at the staging area and be in contact with organizers at all times.

Spectators would be restricted to the hardened areas (pavement and gravel) at the staging area at Maston Trailhead and would not congregate along the trail system. Participants would be informed of safety issues and other requirements at the pre-race meeting and on hand-outs when signing waivers.

Organizers would inform all runners of wildlife and trail concerns and provide each runner with a map of off-limits areas prior to the event and instruct them to remain on the established trail tread. Monitors would immediately eliminate any runner from the race if they stray from the trail tread. Runners would be asked to arrive with shoes clean of all plant material and seeds. They would also be asked to clean their shoes prior to using in any other areas. The course would not go through, near, or affect any “special areas”.

BLM would monitor the race course and take note of any damage that exists to the trail system prior to the event. After the event Superfit Productions would work together with BLM and the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA) to rehabilitate any trail segments that may be damaged during the event. However, no damage is expected to occur from foot traffic on the well packed mountain bike trails.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan

Date approved (ROD): September, 2005

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:

- *Recreation Objective R-5: Provide for projects, programs, and permits that promote a diverse range of recreation opportunities. Provide for individual, group, and competitive event recreational use that could not be reasonably accommodated on private land. (Page 109)*

**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. The cultural, T&E plant and T&E animal specialists have indicated they expect no unacceptable impacts to resources.

**D. Signature**

I considered the social and environmental impacts of approving a permit for this race. My concerns about human safety, environmental damage, and noxious weeds have been resolved by incorporating the following design features into the proposed action:

- EMT and First Aid would be available at all times at the staging area and/or on the course. Radios and cell phones would keep organizers in contact at all times.
- Runners would not enter the wildlife closure area and would remain on the trail tread at all times.
- Runners would be instructed to arrive at the race with clean shoes free of plant material and seeds and to thoroughly clean those shoes after the event prior to using in other areas to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weed species.

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

12/10/14  
Date

**Contact Person**

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

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: Running, mountain biking and equestrian uses are common in the area and have not resulted significant impacts on public health or safety. This organized event calls for EMT supervision, first aid kits, and participant and public communication. These measures would ensure there is not an impact on public health or 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 location is in an area where no wilderness characteristics have been identified. The proposed action would not have impacts on any other resource listed above.			
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 project does not include any unique or unknown environmental risks. These trails are used by foot and bike traffic on a daily basis and these uses were analyzed in the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (2005) and the Cline Buttes EA (2009). This competitive event would not have any more effect on the environment than everyday casual use of the area.			
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 is a clearance for a one-time event and does not set any precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about any future actions. Each Special Recreation Permit is analyzed on a case by case basis and is issued at manager's discretion.			
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: The BLM does not expect effects of the proposed action to combine with those of other past, ongoing or future actions to produce a cumulatively significant effect.			
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 Maston Area was assessed prior to recreation trail development and significant			

<p>impacts to properties were avoided through project design. The project area includes the eligible Tumalo Project irrigation canals and ditches. In consultation with Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the relic canal routes were identified for use as recreation trail routes. This event would utilize the recreation trail routes and would not impact any new ground.</p>		
<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.</p>		X
<p>Rationale: The district wildlife biologist and botanist report that the only TES species known or expected in the area are the Golden Eagle and Peck's Milkvetch. The scope (use only on trails and outside of the Wildlife Conservation Area) and timing (Peck's milkvetch is not actively growing or reproducing on March 8) of the proposed action would not have any effect on these species or their habitat.</p>		
<p>2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		X
<p>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.</p>		
<p>2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).</p>		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed action has no effect on any low income or minority population.</p>		
<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).</p>		X
<p>Rationale: Runners would remain on existing roads and trails. No sacred sites exist on the existing roads and trails.</p>		
<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).</p>		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed activity would not measurably change the rate of introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Runners would be instructed to arrive with clean shoes and to thoroughly clean their shoes after the event before using in any other areas.</p>		

# Mastondon Trail Race SRP CX

DOI-BLM-OR-060-2015-0005-CX

**Legend**

Trailhead	Power Lines
Race Route	BLM
Highways	State
Roads	Private



Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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3050 NE Third Street  
Prineville, Oregon 97754  
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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.

Date: 12/11/2014

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