

Categorical Exclusion Documentation for All Projects Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Projects

A. Background

BLM Office: Marys Peak Resource Area **Lease/Serial/Case File No:** N/A

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0007-CX **Date:** 7/8/2013

Proposed Action Title/Type: Mudslinger Events 2013: Alsea Falls 10K and 20K Trail Run Event Special Recreation Permit

Location of Proposed Action: This event will utilize trails within portions of the Alsea Falls Recreation Area. Township 14 South, Range 7 West Sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36. The running event will occur on existing non-motorized dirt trails and the 14-6-9, 14-6-34 (South Fork Alsea Access Road), 14-6-34.1, 14-7-25, 14-7-25.1, 14-7-34, 14-7-35, 14-7-35.4, 14-7-36 roads.

Land Use Allocation(s): Late-Successional Reserves, Riparian Reserves, and Matrix

Background and Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposal is to authorize a competitive foot racing event on existing roads and trails that constitute the Alsea Falls trail system. The event, Alsea Falls Trail Run, will utilize the Alsea Falls trail system on both sides of the South Fork Alsea Access Road from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday September 7, 2013. Notifications will be posted one week prior to the event within the Alsea Falls campground and day use areas to inform visitors of the upcoming event.

Multiple signs will be placed on Alpine Road and South Fork Alsea Access Road to alert travelers of runners crossing at one location of the South Fork Road. Flaggers, provided by Mudslingers, will be stationed at the crossing to ensure runner safety. Aid stations will be set up along the route, two aid stations for the 10K and five stations for the 20K, to provide water and nutritional products. Medical support (in the means of basic first aid) and radio communications will be stationed at 5K intervals throughout the route, local resources will be notified prior to the event if a need beyond the basic first aid becomes necessary.

Registration and start and finish points of the race will be located at the Fall Creek staging area. Event parking will be located primarily within the staging area and along 14-7-25 road. Volunteer and event vehicles may park in two turnouts along the South Fork Alsea Access Road. If needed, overflow parking may occur within the Alsea Falls Day-Use Area parking lot. Parking within the Alsea Falls Day-Use Area will be required to follow fee requirements of the area. The Day-Use area will remain open for public use during activities.

The Event Route:

1. Begin/end at the 14-7-25 road where it intersects with 14-6-34.1

2. Travel northeast through the Alsea Falls day-use area to non-mechanized trails.
3. Follow Side Winder trail to 14-7-25.2, turning southeast to Buck Horn trail. Follow Buck Horn trail to South Fork Mile. South Fork Mile to 14-6-9 turning west to South Fork Road.
4. Follow South Fork Road to 14-6-9. Follow 14-6-9 to 14-7-36. Follow 14-7-36 to the intersection of 14-7-35.4.
5. 10K runners will turn right on 14-7-35.4 traveling to Stellar Jay trail. Follow Stellar Jay to 14-7-25. 20K runners will turn left on 14-7-35.4. Follow 14-7-35.4 to Bailout trail to Billy Buster. Follow Billy Buster to Hard Rock trail.
6. Follow 14-7-35.4 to Bailout trail to Billy Buster. Follow Billy Buster to Hard Rock trail.
7. Follow Hard Rock trail, travel down 14-7-25 to finish.

Signs will be placed at the trailheads and Alsea Falls Day-Use Area a week in advance to announce the event. The course will be flagged the preceding Thursday and Friday. All signage will be removed by the day following the event. The permittee has a group volunteer agreement to maintain and fix the event trail system. The permittee is the owner of Mudslinger Events LLC and has a long-standing history of hosting these types of events. The gate located at 14-7-25 road will be unlocked for this event to allow emergency vehicle access and additional parking. Approximately 250 participants in staggered stages and 40 spectators are expected to attend this event.

The trail bridge at Fall Creek has been temporarily closed for maintenance since spring 2013. Bridge repairs are expected to be completed prior to the event date. However, if the necessary repairs have not been completed by the time of the event, temporary structures or materials will be placed at the crossing. These materials would be removed upon completion of the event. The structure or materials would not generate sediment and would not result in mobilization of the streambed. Minimal brush cutting may occur, following necessary authorization from the BLM. To ensure runner safety and resource protection, markers will be placed to notify runners of the stream crossing.

Project Design Features (Stipulations for Permittee):

- Aesthetics: Permittee shall protect the scenic and aesthetic values of the public lands used in the operations, and maintain premises on permitted grounds and areas to acceptable standards of repair, orderliness, and cleanliness. After use, insofar as practical, the area shall be left in a natural state.
- Sanitation: Toilet facilities will be available along the travel route.
- Trash Disposal: All trash generated by the permitted operation shall be packed out of public land. No trash or litter shall be allowed to accumulate on the grounds. Trash shall not be buried on public land.
- Waste or by-products of any kind shall not be discharged into any stream, reservoir, lake or pond. Pit toilets or latrines shall be located at least 150 feet away from any river,

stream, or spring.

- **Stream crossings:** Place plastic barrier fencing or nylon pennant flagging on either side of the bridges and culverts to funnel the runners to the crossings. Barrier fences will be tied to the bridge corners, or attached to collapsible posts, and extend out at an angle to at least 25 feet. The goal is to funnel runners on to a hardened stream crossing surface.
- **Soils:** Permittee shall conduct the permitted operations in a manner which prevents runners from leaving the approved trail. If a trail becomes saturated following a wet period, alternate routes would be determined to limit trail damage and potential trail widening of runners trying to navigate around a wet area.
- **Vegetation Damage or Removal:** All operations shall be conducted in a manner which prevents damage to or loss of vegetation cover. Cutting or clearing of standing trees, alive or dead, or clearing and cutting of shrub/forbs for any reason shall require specific advance authorization.
- **Protection of Public Property:** Signs, equipment, markers, and fences or any other property found on public land shall not be damaged, destroyed, defaced, removed, or disturbed.
- **Cultural Resources:** Archeological and historical values including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic structures, and artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed or disturbed. Any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations shall be left in place and the Field Manager shall be notified of their discovery.
- **Facility Construction:** Construction of permanent facilities or improvements of any kind, (including, but not limited to, roads, trails, or structures) is not approved by this permit and shall require separate authorization.
- **Post event walk-through:** Permittee will repair any excess damage to event route trails within two months following completion and before the rainy season begins.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP)* **Date Approved** May 1995 **Date Amended:** The 1995 RMP was amended in January 2001 as documented in the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, dated January 2001 (SM/ROD).

This project conforms and is consistent with the Land Use Plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision (RMP, p. 41):

- Provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that

- contribute to meeting projected demand within the planning area.
- Continue to provide nonmotorized recreation opportunities and create additional opportunities where consistent with other management objectives.

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 11.9, H which allows for issuing “Special Recreation Permits for day use...; 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 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 DM2 apply.

Table 1. Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p>a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</p> <p>Rationale: All proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety. Flaggers will be staged at both locations where the race crosses the 14-6-34.1 road. Event planners will have emergency access through two gates. One is located on the 14-7-35 road and the other is located on the 14-7-25 road.</p>		No
<p>b) 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, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas?</p> <p>Rationale: No unique geographical characteristics are within the project area or affected by this project. Recreation use of Alsea Falls recreation site picnic area, the South Fork Alsea Access Road, gravel roads, and existing non-motorized trail system around Alsea Falls recreation site, will increase on September 7, 2013. Crowding may briefly affect recreational resources. There are no recorded cultural resources within the event area.</p>		No
<p>c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?</p> <p>Rationale: Based on experience, this type of activity has no predicted environmental effects that may be considered highly controversial nor are there any unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives uses.</p>		No
<p>d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p>Rationale: Experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>		
<p>e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: Similar actions have taken place throughout the district with no evidence suggesting that this type of project will establish a precedent or decision for future action. Each special recreation permit is processed according to BLM regulations which review past performance, states stipulations on issuing a permit, mitigation measures, safety measures to be taken, and record keeping.</p>		No
<p>f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.</p>		No
<p>g) 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?</p> <p>Rationale: No listed or eligible properties are known within the project area.</p>		No
<p>h) 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> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Botany: Travel is restricted to existing routes. There are no known T&E plants within the project area. No effects to T&E plant species.</p> <p>Wildlife: Runners will travel along gravel and paved roads as well as existing dirt trails. No adjacent suitable habitat will be disturbed by the increased activities – no effect.</p> <p>Fisheries: ESA listed threatened Oregon Coastal (OC) Coho salmon are known to be present up to Alsea Falls. Designated Critical Habitat extends to the falls. Runners will be on gravel and paved roads and existing dirt trails. No aquatic habitat will be disturbed by the proposed activities. No effects to OC Coho or designated Critical Habitat will be anticipated.</p>		No
<p>i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p> <p>Rationale: Road and trail usage follow all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p>j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>		No
<p>k) 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> <p>Rationale: Use of proposed route roads and trails has not resulted in tribal identification of concerns.</p>		No
<p>l) 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> <p>Rationale: No increase in exposed mineral soil above the current level is expected. The risk rating for the long-term establishment of noxious weed species within the project area and consequences of adverse effects is low. Any soil disturbance is expected to be localized and minimal.</p>		No

D. Interdisciplinary Team Review and Signature

Interdisciplinary Team Review

Name	Specialty
Debra Drake	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Scott Snedaker	Fisheries Biologist
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist
Steve Wegner	Hydrologist and Soil Scientist

Authorized Official: Rich Hatfield **Date:** 7/8/13
Name: Rich Hatfield
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review contact Debra Drake, Recreation Planner, Salem District Office Bureau of Land Management, 1717 Fabry Rd. SE Salem, Oregon, at (503) 315-5948 or (503) 815-1134.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT, MARYS PEAK RESOURCE AREA**

Decision Record

Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0007-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, authorization of the 2013 Mudslinger Event, Alsea Falls Trail Run permit (LLORS05000-SRP-13-003), involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement the 2013 Mudslinger Event, Alsea Falls Trail Run Special Recreation Permit activities, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation.

Implementation: This project will be implemented in September 2013.

Administrative Remedy: Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Salem District internet website. The action is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR Part 4.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review contact Debra Drake, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, at (503) 315-5948 or (503) 815-1134.

Authorized Official: Rich Hatfield Date: 7/8/13
Name: Rich Hatfield
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager