

Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format When Using Categorical Exclusions Not Established by Statute

A. Background

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

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0014-CX **Date:** 6/4/2012

Proposed Action Title/Type: Botkin Road Shooting Area Rehabilitation

Location of Proposed Action: T. 13 S., R. 6 W., Section 7, Willamette Meridian. Benton County, Oregon.

Background and Description of Proposed Action:

For a number of years, the spur roads off of Botkin Road have been popular areas for target shooting. More recently, the use and damage has increased to the point where there is both resource damage and public safety issues that need to be addressed.

In April, Marys Peak Staff joined the Benton County Sheriff's Department for a field review of some of the target shooting sites. Several sites were heavily littered with significant vegetation damage. At one site, we identified a clear public safety issue as people were shooting uphill at a heavily traveled road. Within the last year, a passing vehicle was shot by a stray bullet.

These shooting areas are at the end of short spur roads (see map).

The Proposed Action includes digging a shallow trough and placing boulders on two of these spur roads. These boulders will be partially buried and serve to restrict vehicular access. Pedestrian access will not be affected or limited.

This decision authorizes the following actions:

- Boulder and block vehicle access on the 13-6-7.6 and 13-6-7.3 Roads.
- On the 13-6-7.3 Road, sufficient clearance will be maintained to allow the passage of OHVs/motorcycles.
- Install signage that indicates that the shooting area off of the 13-6-7.6 Road does not contain an adequate backdrop and is dangerous to use for target shooting.

Project Vicinity Map

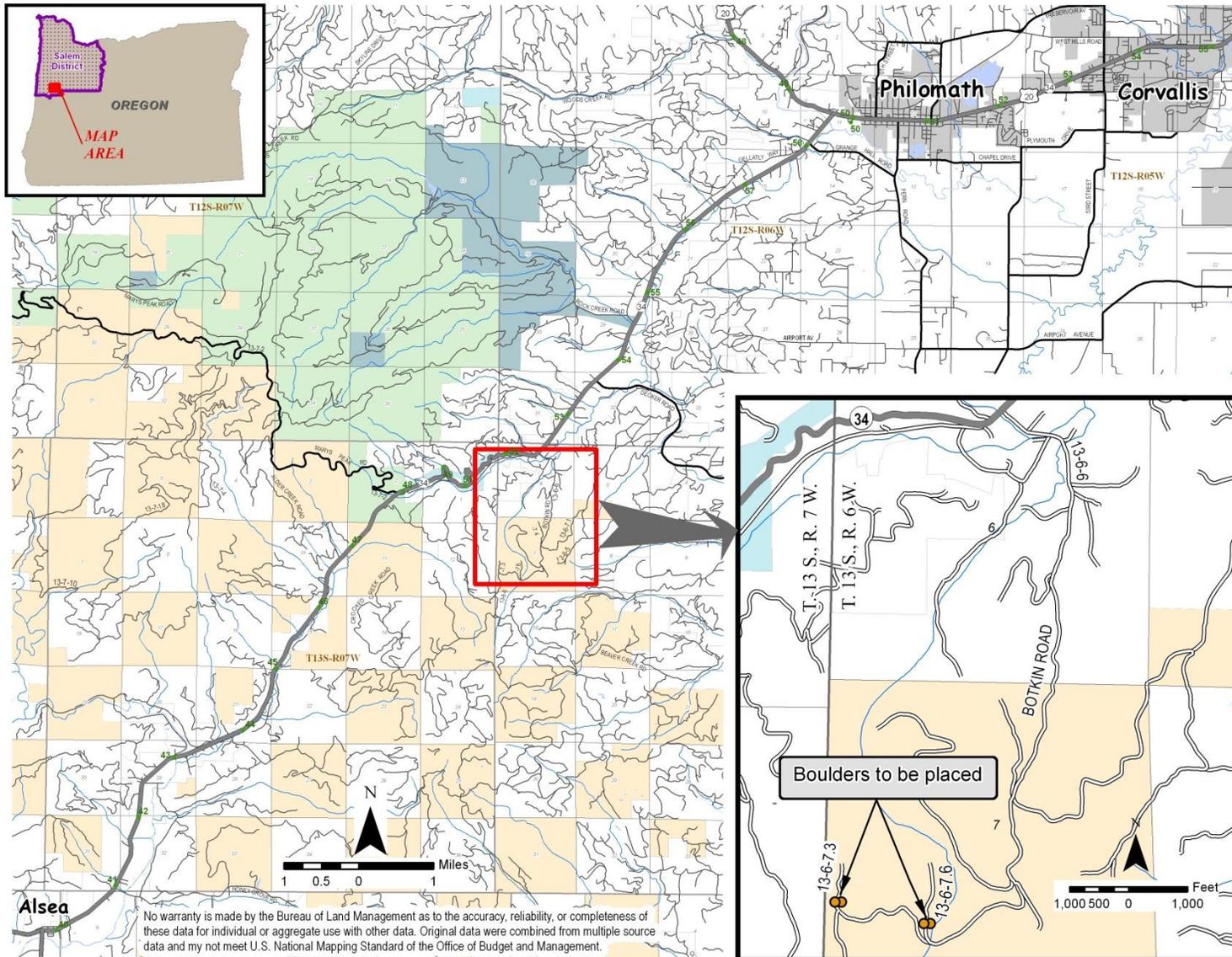


Photo 1. Litter and damage along Botkin Road, Marys Peak Resource Area



Photo 2. Litter and tree damage association with recreational shooting



Project Design Features

To minimize the spread of noxious weeds

- All equipment moved into the project area will be required to be clean and free of dirt and vegetation as directed by the Authorized Officer. Any disrupted soil would be sown with weed free red fescue or a native grass mix if available.

To protect Cultural Resources

- If any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) is discovered during project activities all operations in the immediate area of such discovery shall be suspended until an evaluation of the discovery can be made by a professional archaeologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This project conforms and is consistent with the Salem District's 1995 Resource Management Plan (RMP).

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(s):

- Manage scenic, natural, and cultural resources to enhance visitor recreation experiences and satisfy land users (RMP, p. 41).

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 G(2), which allows for "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."

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: The proposed project will have no impacts on public health or safety therefore will have no significant impacts on public health or safety. All activities associated with the proposed action will be conducted in a forested location outside of population centers and will conform to established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety.</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: The project area is not located in any park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, or national natural landmarks. There are no floodplains, prime farmlands, wetlands, national monuments, or other ecologically significant or critical areas present in the project area. This project will not impact any known cultural or historic sites.</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: The effects of the proposed action are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Past experience has shown that the environmental effects of the proposed project are not highly controversial. The ROD/RMP established the land use allocation and goals for the affected lands. As such, there is no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources.</p>		No
<p>d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p> <p>Rationale: Blocking vehicular access to roads is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial, highly uncertain, or unique or unknown risks.</p>		No
<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: The proposed project is authorized under the existing ROD/RMP, and as such, this project will represent implementation of that land use plan decision, not a decision in principle on future actions.</p>		No
<p>f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: There are no cumulative effects associated with the proposed project and therefore no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions.</p>		No

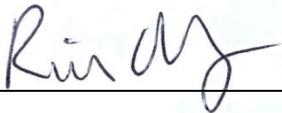
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
<p>g) Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office?</p> <p>Rationale: There are no NRHP listed or eligible sites located 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 (T&E) Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Botany: No T&E or Bureau Special Status botanical or fungi will be affected. Wildlife: Proposed action would have no effect on any T&E or Bureau Special Status wildlife. ESA, Section 7 consultation is not needed. Fish: No T&E or Bureau Special Status fish species will be affected.</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: The proposed project is in conformance with direction given for the management of public lands in the Salem District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws such as the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act and others.</p>		No
<p>j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed project is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and 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: Past actions within this area have 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>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
<p>Rationale: The risk rating for the long-term establishment of noxious weeds through the implementation of this project is low because: a) the project area is limited in size, b) the project area will be monitored for the establishment of noxious weed species, c) the resource area has a weed management plan in place which allows for control of non-native and noxious weed species and d) the Authorized Officer would require sowing grass seed on mineral soil areas which would reduce the amount of potential noxious weed habitat.</p>		

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 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (see Table 1, above) apply.

D. Interdisciplinary Review and Signature

Name	Specialty	Initial
Debra Drake	Outdoor Recreation Planner	DD
Ron Exeter	Botanist	RE
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	<i>DSH</i>
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator	SNL
Hugh Snook	Forester – Silviculture	<i>HWS</i>
Scott Snedaker	Fisheries Biologist	<i>SMS</i>
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist	HAU
Steve Wegner	Hydrologist and Soil Scientist	SJW

Authorized Official: 
Name: Rich Hatfield
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Date: 6/4/2012

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Rich Hatfield, Marys Peak Field Manager, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (503) 315-5968.

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

Decision Record

Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Review, DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0014-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, addressing natural resource and safety concerns through the placement of boulders on two roads, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

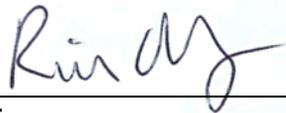
It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the proposed action, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation.

Implementation: This project will be implemented in the summer of 2012.

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 Rich Hatfield, Marys Peak Field Manager, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (503) 315-5968.

Authorized Official: _____



Rich Hatfield
Marys Peak Field Manager

Date: 6/4/2012