

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-S050-2013-0004-CX **Date:** 4/23/2013

Proposed Action Title/Type: Mudslinger Events 2013 Alsea Falls Switchback XC Special Recreation Permit

Location of Proposed Action: This event will utilize the day-use portion of the Alsea Falls Recreation Site. Township 14 South, Range 7 West Sections 25, 26, 27, 24, 35, and 36. The bicycle event will occur on existing non-motorized dirt trails and the 14-6-9, 14-6-34 (South Fork Alsea Access Rd), 14-6-34.1, 14-7-25, 14-7-25.1, 14-7-34, 14-7-35, 14-7-35.2, 14-7-35.4, 14-7-36 roads.

Land Use Allocation(s): Late-Successional Reserve (LSR), Riparian Reserve (RR), and Matrix

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposal is to authorize a competitive mountain bike event on existing roads and trails that are part of the Alsea Falls trail system. The event, Alsea Falls Switchback XC, will utilize the Alsea Falls Day-Use area and trail system from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday June 15, 2013. The Day-Use area is where registration, after event barbeque, and awards ceremony will take place, and where additional port-a-potties will be placed. The Day-Use area will remain open for public use during these activities. Registration will occur from 8:00 to 10:00 am in the picnic area. The route utilizes approximately 4.2 miles of paved or gravel roads and 2.1 miles of existing dirt trails. Radio communications and local medical staff will be on hand for emergencies. Staging vehicles will occur on existing roads such as the 14-7-25 (north of the 14-6-34.1 road). Volunteer and official vehicles will fill up parking outside the picnic area on two turnouts. If needed, overflow parking may occur within the Day-Use parking lot.

The Event Route:

1. Begin at the 14-7-25 road where it intersects with 14-6-34.1
2. Travel west 14-7-25 road and along Coyote Canyon trail
3. Turn right and continue south on the 14-7-36 road to the 14-7-35.4 road
4. Travel on Stellar Jay trail to 14-7-25.1 to 14-6-34 to intersect of 14-7-25
5. Travel to intersection of 14-6-34.1 to intersect with 14-7-35
6. (alternate lap route) turn on to bailout trail from 14-7-35 to 14-7-35.4
7. From 14-7-35.4 to the Stellar Jay trail
8. Follow Stellar Jay trail connecting with the 14-7-25.1 road back to point of beginning.
9. Riders will travel route numerous times for this event.
10. An aid station will be set up at the intersection of 14-7-25 and 14-7-25.1.
11. Flaggers will be stationed at the intersection of the 14-7-25 and 14-6-34.1 roads.

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, June 16, 2013. 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 150 – 250 participants in staggered stages and 25 spectators will be at this event.

The trail bridge at Fall Creek is temporarily closed for maintenance¹. If bridge repairs have not been completed at 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, but no disturbance to the stream bank would occur. To ensure rider safety and resource protection, riders would dismount at the temporary structure and walk their bicycles over the temporary crossing.

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

¹ Current as of April 23, 2013.

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 June 15, 2013. Crowding may 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 from the proposed action 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> <p>Rationale: Experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental 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: 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

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	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: 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. Bicycles 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. Wildlife: Bicycles 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. 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>		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 follows all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</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 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>		No

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p>Rationale: Use of proposed route roads and trails have not resulted in tribal identification of concerns.</p>		
<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. Subsequently the risk rating for the long-term establishment of noxious weed species and consequences of adverse effects is low. Any soil disturbance is expected to be localized and minimal.</p>		No

Project Design Features (Stipulations for Permittee):

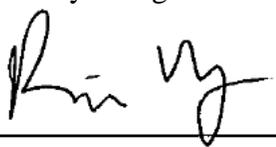
- Aesthetics: Permittee shall protect the scenic and aesthetic values of the public lands used in the operations, and maintain premises on permitted grounds and areas to acceptable standards of repair, orderliness, and cleanliness. After use, insofar as practical, the area shall be left in a natural 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 bikers onto 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 the bikers on to a hardened stream crossing surface. If bridges are not in place, bikers will walk the bikes across a temporary structure.
- Soils: Permittee shall conduct the permitted operations in a manner which prevents severe rutting, or severe soil erosion.

- 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/groundcover for any reason shall require specific advance authorization.
- Non-native plant species/noxious weeds: All bikes are required to be clean of soil and vegetation prior to the event. Upon completion of the event, the Authorized Officer will determine if sowing areas with grass seed is warranted.
- 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 Area 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 rainy season begins.

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:  _____ **Date:** 4/25/13

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-S050-2013-0004-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, authorization of the Mudslinger Event, Alsea Falls Switchback XC Special Recreation Permit (LLORS05000-SRP-13-001), involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

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

Implementation: This project will be implemented in June 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: _____

Name: Rich Hatfield

Title: Marys Peak Field Manager



Date: _____

