

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

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

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2014-0007-CX Date: 7/15/2014

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit – Road Rally Event on the South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway

Location of Proposed Action: South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway within the Marys Peak Resource Area. The travel route is located within T. 14 S., R. 7 W., sections 21, 22, 23, 25, 25, and 36; T. 14 S., R. 6 W., section 31; and T. 15 S., R. 6 W., sections 4, 5, and 6.

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

Description of Proposed Action: The proposal is to allow Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon to conduct the Monte Shelton NW Classic Motor Rally along the South Fork Alsea National Back Country Byway (“byway”), a BLM-managed road, on Saturday, July 26, 2014. Travelers along the byway should expect increased traffic from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. that day.

Approximately 100 vehicles will be traveling at one-minute intervals at, or below, legal designated speed limits. This is a time, speed, and distance event. Participants are to arrive at control points along the route at pre-determined times, based on assigned speeds in prescribed route instructions. Penalties are assessed for leaving the route and/or arriving either early or late at each control point.

All vehicles will be accessing South Fork Alsea National Back Country Byway from Hwy 201, Alsea-Deadwood Highway, and traveling east along the byway to Glenbrook Road. Vehicles will be licensed and street legal automobiles traveling paved routes. A checkpoint will be located at the intersection of the byway (14-6-34) and the 15-6-6.3 road. Vehicles will stop for approximately 30-seconds each, to re-set vehicle odometer before continuing on through byway.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Conformance: The proposed action is in conformance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource & Management Plan* (RMP), dated May 1995, as amended (p. 41) and directs the following to:

- Provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected demand within the planning area.
- Enhance recreation opportunities provided by existing and proposed watchable wildlife areas and national back country byways.
- Support locally sponsored tourism initiatives and community economic strategies by providing recreation projects and programs with both short- and long-term benefits.

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.1 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

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<p>a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</p> <p>Rationale: All proposed activities follow established 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: No unique geographical characteristics are within the project area or affected by this project.</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 such actions are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives 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: 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.</p>		No

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<p>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>		
<p>f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p>		No
<p>Rationale: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.</p>		
<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>		No
<p>Rationale: No listed or eligible National Register Properties are within the project area.</p>		
<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>		No
<p>Rationale:</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. Vehicle travel on existing paved roads. No aquatic habitat will be disturbed by the proposed activities. No effects to OC Coho or designated Critical Habitat will be anticipated.</p> <p>Wildlife: Vehicles will travel along paved roads. No adjacent suitable habitat will be disturbed by the increased activities – no effect.</p> <p>Botany: The proposed action occurs on a paved access route. There are no known T&E or bureau special status botanical or fungal species on or adjacent the access route.</p>		
<p>i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p>		No
<p>Rationale: The proposed action will use existing paved roads which will not violate any Federal, State, local or tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		
<p>j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p>		No
<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>		

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<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: There are no identified sacred, ceremonial, or religious Indian sites within the area.</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: Since the event occurs primarily on paved roads, there are few opportunities for disturbing mineral soil or otherwise creating habitat for noxious weed species. Any adverse impact from the spread of noxious weeds through the implementation of this project is considered minimum.</p>		No

Project Design features are described below. No additional mitigation measures are required.

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.
- 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.
- Soils: Permittee shall conduct the permitted operations on paved roadways, preventing any rutting, or severe soil erosion.
- 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.

- Access Routes: Roads, trails and trailheads, river access or campsites commonly in public use shall not be blocked or enclosed by the permittee.
- 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 within two months following completion and before rainy season begins.

D. Interdisciplinary Team Review and Signature

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

Authorized Official: /s/ Rich Hatfield Date: 7/15/14

Name: Rich Hatfield

Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX, contact Debra Drake, Outdoor 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 DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2014-0007-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, Special Recreation Permit for the Monte Shelton NW Classic Motor Rally, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement the Special Recreation Permit for the Monte Shelton NW Classic Motor Rally, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2014-0007-CX.

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.

Implementation: This action will take place on Saturday, July 26, 2014.

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

Authorized Official: /s/ Rich Hatfield Date: 7/15/14
Name: Rich Hatfield
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager