

## Categorical Exclusion Documentation

### A. Background

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

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2014-0004-CX    **Date:** 4/25/2014

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Automated Fee Station and Shelter Construction at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

**Location of Proposed Action:** Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, Lincoln County, Oregon.

**Land Use Allocation(s):** Congressionally Reserved

### **Background and Description of the Proposed Action:**

#### **Automated Fee Station and Shelter**

The BLM is proposing to construct a shelter and pedestal for an automated fee station west of the current entrance station at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA). The new fee station will expedite and improve the entrance process for visitors. The current station supports only one lane of traffic and accepts only cash or checks as payment. The new station will accept credit and debit cards in a separate lane to improve traffic flow. These additions will reduce visitor waiting times at the entrance. YHONA will remain open during construction; however, visitors may experience minor delays during the approximate 10 day construction period. Construction will occur outside the peak (summer) recreation season.

Approximately 70 feet of existing concrete curbing separating asphalt and a vegetation island will be removed. The existing vegetation island would be reduced by approximately 12 feet in width, to allow for better road alignment and create a vehicle pull out lane and a sidewalk. Some existing soil and vegetation within the island will be removed. The island was constructed in 1997, the year the Interpretive Center opened and charging fees under the Fee Demonstration Program was approved.

#### **Kiosk Removal**

Two kiosks will be removed as part of the project. The information currently displayed-on the kiosks will be incorporated into a new wayside adjacent to the automated fee station and shelter in the future.

#### **Vegetation**

Much of the existing vegetation located in the island will be removed during the construction phase. Tree limbs and other vegetation that may become hazards to vehicles with the narrowing of the island may be cut and removed.

Usable soil from construction will be utilized on the remaining island to add contours and depth for replanting with native plant species. The newly shaped vegetation island will be planted with native shrubs common to the area such as twinberry, flowering red currant, shore pine, blue violet, evergreen huckleberry, and wax myrtle. These species will be sown among the existing native ground cover of salal and Oregon grape. Planting with native species will reduce the need for vegetative maintenance and encourage native pollinators.

### **Shelter and Kiosk Construction**

The shelter for the automated fee station will be a three-sided kiosk of like materials to the current entrance station. In addition, an accessible walkway will be built from the current entrance station to the new automated fee station. The concrete walkway will be standard size and meet ADA accessibility requirements.

**Project Map** – Approximate location of construction.



United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Fee Station**  
T. 10 S., R. 11 W., Section 29, W. M. - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON



## **Project Design Features**

### **To Protect Water Quality**

- No refueling will be allowed within 100 feet of any standing or running water.
- Soil stockpile will be covered with a tarp until it is reutilized for the new plantings.

### **To protect Special Status Species**

- The resource area biologist and/or botanist will be notified if any Bureau Special Status botanical, fungal, or animal species are found occupying any portion of the trees to be cut and removed. If the species is a federal listed ESA species then all of the known trees will be withdrawn from any timber removal activity. If the species is other than a federal listed ESA species, then appropriate mitigation action will be taken.

### **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.

### **To protect public health and safety**

- The project area may be staffed with flaggers or posted with signs to notify the public of project activities.

## **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):

- Manage scenic, natural, and cultural resources to enhance visitor recreation experiences and satisfy public land users.

### 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 (4) which allows for “Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.”

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><i>1) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This project will not have any impacts on public health and safety. Proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety.</p>		No
<p><i>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, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The projects will not have significant impacts on the aforementioned resources or characteristics. The project is limited to a small area outside of sensitive natural and cultural areas.</p>		No
<p><i>3) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> 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.</p>		No
<p><i>4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique, or unknown environmental risks.</p>		No

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<p>5) <i>Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed project is addressed and 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>6) <i>Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.</p>		No
<p>7) <i>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?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> No listed or eligible properties are located at the entrance station.</p>		No
<p>8) <i>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?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <p><u>Botany:</u> No T&amp;E or Bureau Special Status botanical or fungi will be affected.  <u>Wildlife:</u> No T&amp;E or Bureau Special Status wildlife will be affected.  <u>Fish:</u> No T&amp;E or Bureau Special Status fish species will be affected.</p>		No
<p>9) <i>Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action follows all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		No
<p>10) <i>Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> 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>11) <i>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)?</i></p>		No

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Past actions within the entrance station of YHONA have not resulted in tribal identification of concerns.</p>		
<p><i>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)?</i></p>	No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The risk rating for any adverse effects resulting from the establishment of noxious weed from the proposed action is low. Yaquina Head has a proactive non-native plant program and the establishment of any listed noxious weeds would be removed.</p>		

#### D. Interdisciplinary Team Review and Signature

##### Interdisciplinary Team Review

<b>Name</b>	<b>Specialty</b>
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Tim Fisher	YHONA Site Manager
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist
Steve Wegner	Hydrologist and Soil Scientist

**Authorized Official:**           /s/ Rich Hatfield                **Date:**           4/25/2014          

**Name:** Rich Hatfield

**Title:** Marys Peak Field Manager

##### Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Tim Fisher, YHONA Site Manager, at 750 NW Lighthouse Dr., Newport, Oregon, 97365 or (541) 574-3142.

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**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-S050-2014-0004-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, construction of an automated fee station and shelter at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, 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.

Implementation: Implementation may begin in May 2014. The project will take approximately 10 days to complete.

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 Categorical Exclusion, contact Tim Fisher, YHONA site manager, at 750 NW Lighthouse Dr., Newport, Oregon, 97365 or (541) 574-3142.

**Authorized Official:**           /s/ Rich Hatfield                **Date:**           4/25/14            
Rich Hatfield  
Marys Peak Field Manager