

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-S050-2013-0009-CX Date: 3/12/2014

Proposed Action Title/Type: Community Training at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

Location of Proposed Action: Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area – T. 10 S., R. 11 W., Section 30, Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Oregon.

Land Use Allocation(s): Congressionally Withdrawn

Background and Description of Proposed Action:

The Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA) provides a unique set of geographical features that make it an ideal location for hosting a wide variety of events and trainings. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) receives several requests throughout the year by diverse groups to host training at YHONA. Many of these trainings are held by local and regional agencies to promote situational awareness and to enhance responses in the matters of public safety. Trainings may be conducted to help prepare for natural emergencies (earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.), as well as human-related emergencies (auto accidents, ship wrecks, suicide prevention, etc.).

Common users of the site for training purposes include the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Sheriff Department, Newport Police Department, Newport Fire Department, local volunteer fire departments, and local volunteer Search and Rescue teams. While the individual trainings may vary, they are often limited in scope and of short duration. The BLM will work with each organization to limit disturbances to the visiting public and the natural features during training exercises. The BLM will ensure planned activities do not impact any cultural or historical features existing at YHONA.

The BLM will review each request during the land use permitting process. The BLM will review the supplies and resources needed and other aspects of the training that could affect the public and the natural features during training exercises. Equipment used during training may include, but is not limited to, ropes, climbing gear, litter, helicopter, hovercrafts, and other support devices.

Visitors will be notified the day of the training and the local community will typically be informed prior to the event via standard news media outlets.

Map 1. Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

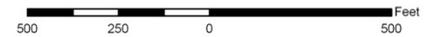


Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.

 YHONA Site Boundary



Project Design Features

- Vehicles will be required to stay on paved roads and in designated parking areas.
- Training will occur during regular park hours unless coordinated in advance during the permitting process.
- The lighthouse will remain open to the public; the Permittee shall make every effort to minimize adverse effects to the general public.
- The Permittee must not disturb or modify native vegetation or cultural landscape, including archaeological and historic sites, or negatively impact wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- If any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) is discovered during 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.
- Activities will generally be confined to Quarry Cove overflow area of YHONA or other lesser used areas of YHONA. If more prominent areas are utilized, they will be designed to limit impacts to visitors (on the shoulder, off season, etc.).
- Activities will avoid breeding season of seabirds and marine mammals.
- The area will be roped or coned off to prevent visitors getting too close to equipment or training activities. Qualified flaggers will be provided by the training team if needed to control traffic flow.
- When present, a representative spokesperson from the training team will be made available to communicate with the visiting public to inform the visitor of the training exercise or drill.

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).

The project is in conformance 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 public land users (RMP, p. 41)

C. Compliance with NEPA

The project is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 46.210 (j) which allows for “activities which are educational, informational, advisory or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the general public.”

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 DM 2 (see Table 1, below) apply.

Table 1

Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p><i>1) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</i></p> <p>Rationale: Project activities will follow established rules concerning health and safety. Trainings may have subsequent positive impacts on public 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>Rationale: Unique geographical characteristics and historic and cultural resources will not be impacted.</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>Rationale: The proposed action is not considered highly controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives uses of resources.</p>		No
<p><i>4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</i></p> <p>Rationale: Experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<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>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
<p>6) <i>Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</i></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>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>Rationale: The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will not be impacted by the proposed action.</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>Rationale: No listed (or proposed to be listed) species or their habitat will be affected, because none are known from within the project area.</p> <p>Fish: No potential impacts upon species listed, or proposed to be listed, under the ESA or designated Critical Habitat have been identified. Critical Habitat for Green Sturgeon (FR 52345) and Eulachon (FR 65323) has been designated of the nearshore marine waters of the Pacific Ocean surrounding YHONA. Proposed actions would occur outside of the nearshore marine waters and no proposed actions would occur that would affect critical habitat elements to these species.</p> <p>Wildlife: Activities would avoid the breeding season sites of nesting seabirds, peregrine falcons, and marine mammals. No T&E listed wildlife species and no critical habitat would be affected by these activities.</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>Rationale: 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>Rationale: The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
populations.		
<p>11) 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: The BLM will ensure that permittee activities do not limit access or use of areas of interest by local tribes. Activities will not impact sacred sites or other cultural values.</p>	No	
<p>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)?</p> <p>Rationale: There is no new ground disturbance associated with this proposed action. The risk rating for adverse effects from the establishment of noxious weeds within the project area is low. In addition, Yaquina Head has a proactive weed abatement program, which further reduces any risk.</p>		No

D. Interdisciplinary Team Review and Signature

Interdisciplinary Team Review

Resource	Name	Initial
Aquatic/Fisheries	Scott Snedaker	SMS
Botany	Ron Exeter	RE
Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	HAU
Soils and Hydrology	Steve Wegner	SJW
NEPA Compliance	Stefanie Larew	SNL
Realty Specialist	Jodi Murphy	JM
Wildlife	Scott Hopkins	DSH
YHONA Site Manager	Tim Fisher	TF

for **Authorized Official:** Sandra Stevens Date: 03/12/2014
Name: Rich Hatfield
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Tim Fisher, YHONA site manager, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (541) 574-3142.

**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-S050-2013-0009-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, authorization of training 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 implement the proposed action as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation.

Implementation: Implementation will begin spring of 2014.

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.

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Tim Fisher, YHONA site manager, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (541) 574-3142.

for **Authorized Official:** Sandra Stevens

Name: Rich Hatfield

Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Date: 03/12/2014