

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-S050-2015-0001-CX **Date:** 12/4/14

Proposed Action Title/Type: Issuance of Organized Group Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) for Weddings 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Land Use Allocation(s): **Congressionally Withdrawn**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 the Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area staff receives approximately 12-20 requests for weddings in an average year. Weddings at YHONA are considered an organized group use and are administered under a Special Recreation Permit (SRP).

The proposed action is to issue SRPs for weddings at YHONA. The activity will occur throughout the year, but the greatest concentration will likely occur during the summer and early autumn months. Any vehicles required for the activity will be restricted to surfaced roads and parking areas; there will be no new ground disturbance. Weddings will generally occur during normal business hours and will be planned so as to minimize disturbance to natural, cultural, and visual resources, and the visiting public.

Figures of YHONA appear on the following pages.

Figure 1. Location of the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area

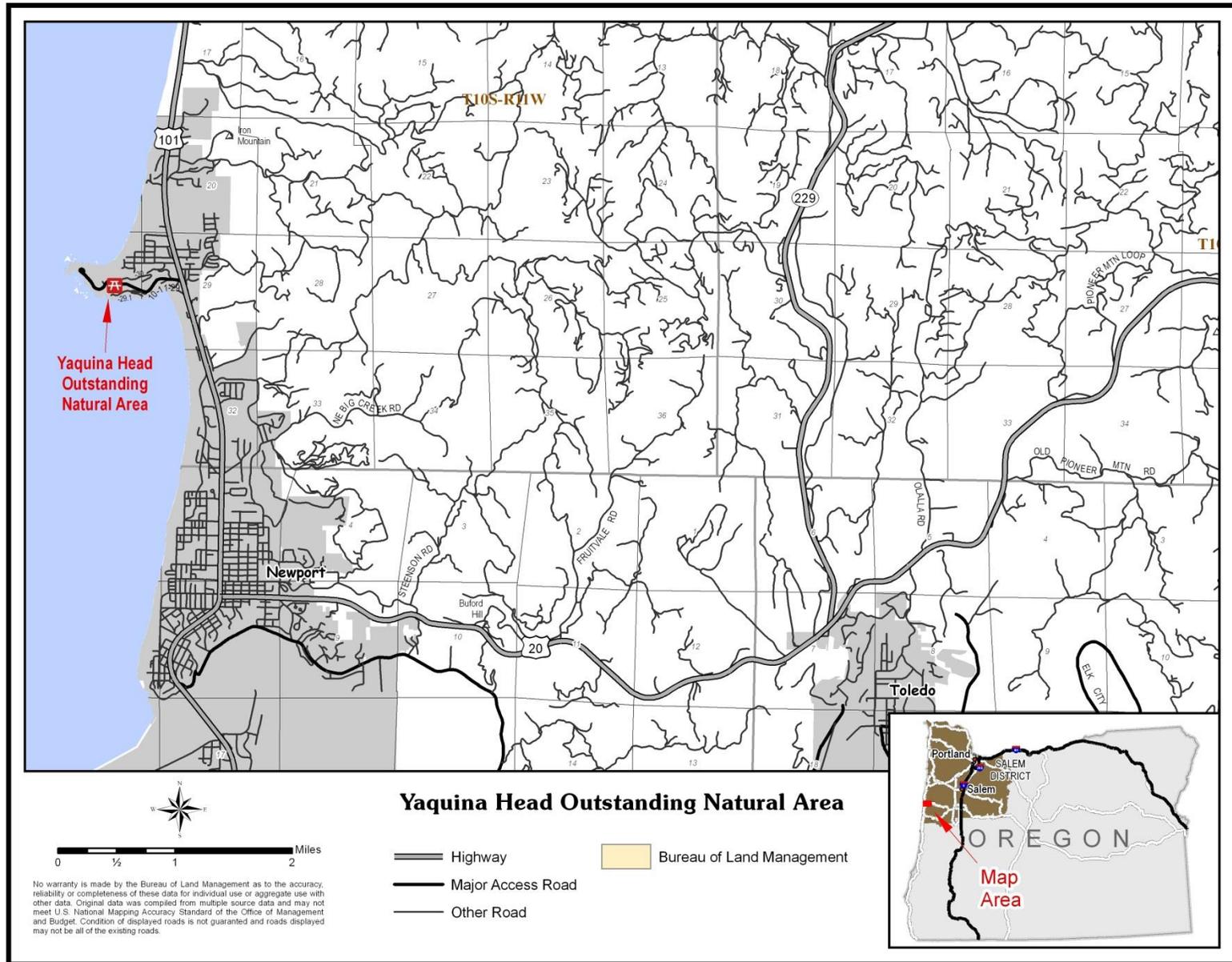


Figure 2. Aerial View of the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area



USDA, BLM and FS Personnel



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

500 250 0 500 Feet

Project Design Features

- Vehicles will be required to stay on paved roads and designated parking areas.
- Weddings will occur during regular park hours (sunrise to sunset).
- Weddings inside the lighthouse will only be authorized outside of regular lighthouse tour hours.
- An authorization for a wedding at YHONA does not grant exclusive use of a site; the Permittee shall make every effort to minimize adverse effects to the general public.
- The Permittee must not disturb or modify the natural or cultural landscape or negatively impact wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Use of bird seed, seed, or rice will not be permitted.

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 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 Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H 1. Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; 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 CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).

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 in the following table and none of the 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 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 activities associated with the proposed action 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: Weddings can be authorized at six areas within the park that are normally managed to accommodate groups of 16-30 persons. No unique geographic characteristics are within the project area. No historic or cultural resources will be impacted.</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 effects of the proposed project are not highly controversial.</p>		No
<p>d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p> <p>Rationale: Weddings at Yaquina Head ONA are not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial, highly uncertain, 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: Past experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks</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
<p>g) Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as determined by either the bureau or office?</p> <p>Rationale: The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will not be impacted by the project. A BLM staff member will be present during all weddings to ensure compliance with policy and to prevent any resource damage.</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	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: No listed (or proposed to be listed) species or their habitat will be affected, because none are know from within the project area.</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 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> <p>Rationale: There will be no new ground disturbance. Any use of seed or rice is prohibited. Yaquina Head has an active non-native plant reduction program which targets the removal pf non-native plants and promotes the establishment of native plant species. The risk rating for any adverse effects from the establishment of non-native species through this project is considered low.</p>		No

D. Interdisciplinary Team Review and Signature

Interdisciplinary Team Review

Name	Specialty
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Allison Ginn	Acting YHONA Manager
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Janet Myers	Realty Specialist
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist

Authorized Official: /s/ Rich Hatfield **Date:** 12/4/2014
Title: **Marys Peak Field Manager**

Contact Person

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

This page intentionally left blank.

**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-S050-2015-0001-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, issuance of permits for weddings (Organized Group SRP) 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 documentation.

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 Tim Fisher, YHONA Manager, 750 NW Lighthouse Drive Newport, Oregon, 97365, (541) 574-3142.

Authorized Official: /s/ Rich Hatfield Date: 12/4/2014
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager