

RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-V050-067-CX

CE Exemption category: 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, 1.7

BLM Office: Vale District Bureau of Land Management, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918

Phone #: 541-473-3144

BACKGROUND

Project Name: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) Stair
Repair/Reconstruction and Trail Maintenance.

Applicant: Not Applicable

Location of Proposed Action: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City,
Oregon

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

- Stairway Repair/Reconstruction – Existing structure is in need of repair/reconstruction for public safety purposes.
- Existing trail(s) are in poor condition and in need to repair/maintenance.
- The NHOTIC Trail Tenders volunteer organization (MOU –BLM-V000-001 is pursuing grant funding which will provide for labor and materials as necessary to complete the project. The project site specifically addresses universal access issues along the Loop Trail, and the outdoor Gold Stamp Mill interpretive area. Repairs and replacement will allow reopening existing stairs and trail segments that were closed as unsafe due to excessive weather damage, erosion, rodent damage, and frost heave. Trail repairs will also extend segments of the trail to be useable by vehicles to provide access for visitors with mobility issues.
- The project plans will not alter existing landscape or vegetation; planned construction techniques account for minimizing impacts to adjacent soils and vegetation. Cultural resources to consider are the National Historic Oregon Trail, and historic structures associated with the Flagstaff Mine. The project is on the opposite side of the hill and outside the view shed of the Oregon Trail and will have no impact on identified values of that resource. The project is within view of the Flagstaff Mine, but will not contribute any new elements into the existing landscape, and will not detract from historic settings or extent historic values of that feature.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

All actions approved or authorized by the BLM must conform to the existing land use plan where one exists (43 CFR 1610.5-3, 516 DM 11.9). Although it is not a NEPA requirement, the BLM includes within all its NEPA documents a statement about the conformance of the proposed action and alternatives with the existing land use plan. The BLM's planning regulations state that the term "conformity" or "conformance" means that "... a resource management action shall be specifically provided for in the plan, or if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan or amendment" (43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)).

The proposed action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the Baker Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1989). The Baker RMP specifically states the following:

Page 6: Administrative actions are the day to day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of the resources. These actions are in conformance with the plan. These actions include: "... facility maintenance..."

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS: EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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 circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and listed below apply.

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Reviewer (Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box)	Date
	X			
	X	1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	SA	7/11/14
	X	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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	SA	7/11/14
	X	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	SA	7/11/14
	X	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	SA	7/11/14
	X	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	SA	7/11/14
	X	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	SA	7/11/14
	X	7. 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.	SA	7/11/14
	X	8. 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.	SA	7/11/14
	X	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	SA	7/11/14
	X	10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	SA	7/11/14
	X	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).	SA	7/11/14

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Reviewer (Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box)	Date
	X	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).	SA.	7/11/14

DOCUMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

For any item(s) above checked "Yes", proposed mitigating measures for those items are listed below. If the extraordinary circumstances cannot be mitigated, the criteria required for a CE are not met and BLM must prepare an EA or EIS.

Item No.	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures	Reviewer	Date

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Departmental Manual Categorical Exclusions list, sections of which are cited and quoted above. The proposed action has also been reviewed in relation to the above listed 12 Extraordinary Circumstances in accordance with the Departmental Manual, and none of these circumstances apply.

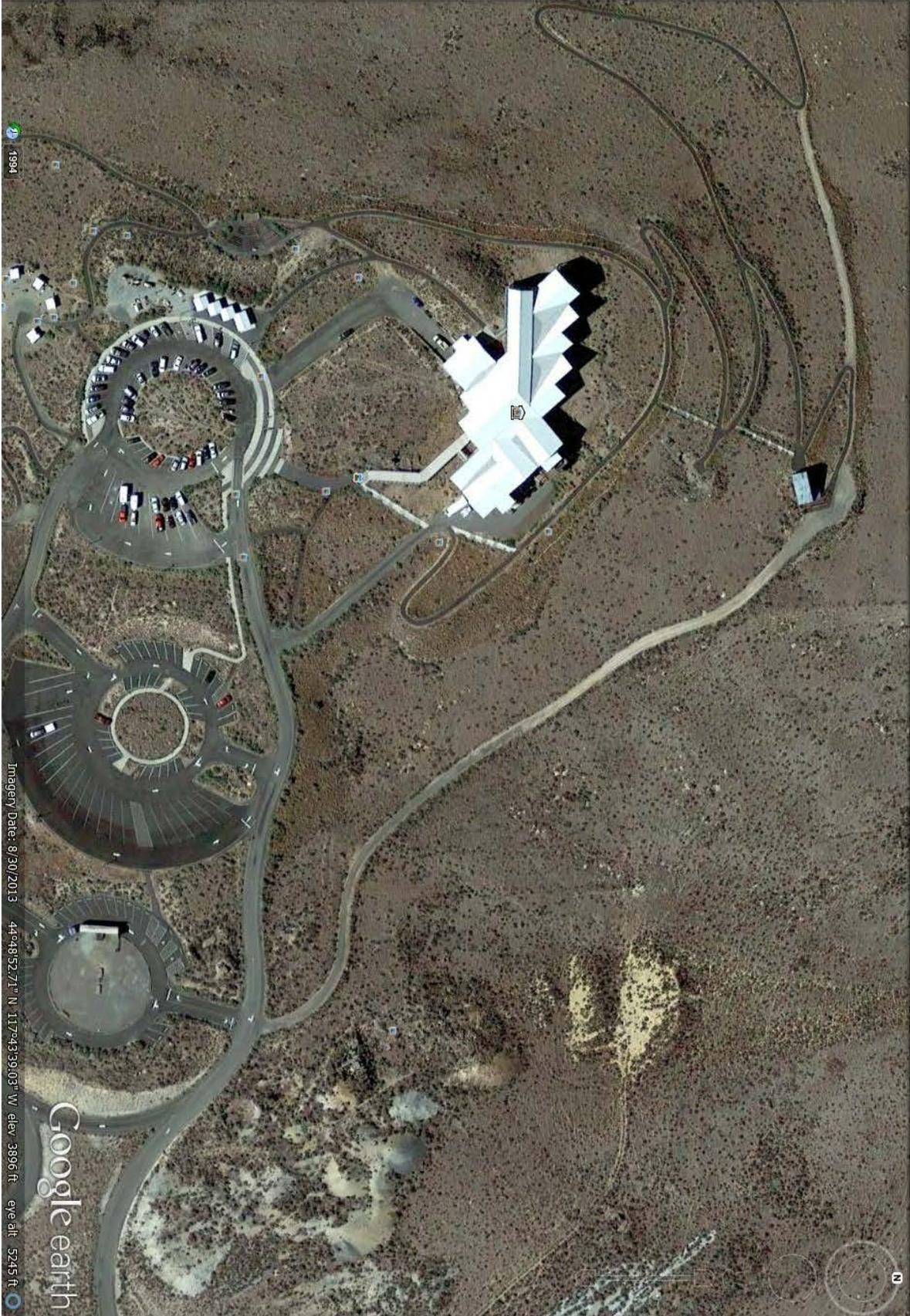
Decision Record

Based on the enclosed Categorical Exclusion Documentation, DOI-BLM-OR-V050-067-CX, I have determined that the proposed action to repair/reconstruct one stairway and segments of several existing trails and add gravel to the service road at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis. It is my decision to authorize this action as proposed. For additional information concerning this project, contact NHOTIC Center Director Sarah LeCompte, Vale District, Baker Resource Area, P.O. Box 947, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Phone (541) 523-1256.

Prepared By: _____ Title: Brent Grasty – Vale District Planning & Env Coordinator Date: July 11, 2014

Sarah LeCompte _____ *NHOTIC Center Director* _____ *7/11/14* _____
 Authorizing Official Title Date





1994

Imagery Date: 8/20/2013

44°48'52.71" N, 117°43'39.03" W, elev. 3896 ft, eye alt. 5245 ft

Google earth