

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION

Daniels Creek – Dry Creek Trail Additions

CX No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2015-0010-CX

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Four Rivers Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Daniels Creek - Dry Creek Trail Additions

Location of Proposed Action:

The proposed trail additions occur in the Boise foothills in Township 4N, Range 2E, Sections 13 and 16 – See attached Map.

Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to add about 2 miles of existing trails to the Ridge to Rivers Trails System. These trails cross BLM administered land and connect to trails on private parcels. The trails have been used by hikers, mountain bikers, runners, and other trail users for many years without legal access across the private parcels. Recently acquired private land easements for public use have removed the private land barrier and these trails will be added to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System. The trails on the BLM will not need any new construction.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:

BLM - Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Date Plan Approved:

Cascade RMP - July 1, 1988.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Cascade RMP

Recreation Resources Objective: Provide or enhance recreation use in 21 areas. (Area #7: Boise Front Special Recreation Management Area.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Boise Front ACEC management objectives are to protect and enhance the watershed resources, quality of wildlife habitat, and variety of recreation opportunities, and scenic values.

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(1)

Category Description:

- *Incorporation of eligible roads and trails in any transportation plan when no new construction or upgrading is needed.*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances that would introduce potential effects that may significantly affect the environment and no new construction of trails is required. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

The following list of Extraordinary Circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) was considered:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Comments/Explanation: The Proposed Action would not have any significant impacts to public health or safety. Adding the existing trails to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System will ensure that these trails are maintained to meet trail standards for safe public travel and will minimize impacts to the surrounding natural resources.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 4/21/2015

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; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Comments/Explanation: The Proposed Action area lies within the Boise Front ACEC/SRMA. The Proposed Action would not have significant impacts on the recreational or visual resources involved in the area. There are no; refuge, wilderness, wild and scenic, or national natural landmark areas in this location.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 04/25/15

Comments/Explanation: The Proposed Action would not have significant impacts on the wildlife resources in the area.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Joseph Weldon, Wildlife Biologist, 5/11/2015

Comments/Explanation: The Proposed Action would have no impacts to wetlands, streams, or water quality.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J. Allen Tarter, 4/24/15

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].

Comments/Explanation: The authorization of this Proposed Action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of

available resources. This activity would be conducted in an area which is used routinely for recreation use.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 04/25/15

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Comments/Explanation: The proposed action has been reviewed and cleared by resource specialists with knowledge of the area. The proposed Action would take place on public lands open for recreational uses. The BLM has maintained trails and monitored recreational trail use and the potential associated environmental impacts are well known.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 04/25/15

5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Comments/Explanation: The addition of new trails in the Boise foothills are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Recreational trail use is recognized as an authorized use in the Cascade RMP. The Proposed Action covers a singular action and would not set a precedent for how the area could be used in the future.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 04/25/15

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Comments/Explanation: Other human-related activities occurring in the area include recreational use including hiking, mountain biking, trail running, etc. There would be no impacts from the activity above beyond those currently occurring during normal daily recreation use. This activity would have minimal use and/or social impacts compared to the current use levels in the area as it does not increase current impacts to recreation or other land uses.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 04/25/15

7. Have significant impacts on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

Comments/Explanation: Adding the existing trail to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System would not impact any historic properties that are listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw – Archaeologist 5/11/2015

8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Comments/Explanation: The project location was examined by the FRFO Botanist and it was determined that no habitat exists for Aaseae's Onion or any other sensitive plant species including the proposed threatened Slickspot Peppergrass. Consequently, no impacts would be expected from this Proposed Action.

Plants Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Mark Steiger - Botanist – 04/24/2015

Comments/Explanation: The Proposed Action would have no adverse impacts to special status animals or their habitat.

Wildlife Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Joseph Weldon 5/11/2015

Comments/Explanation: Authorization of this Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to fish species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species. The area does not support habitat for fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Aquatics Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J. Allen Tarter – 04/24/2015

9. Violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Comments/Explanation: Adding existing trails to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System would not violate Federal, State, local, or tribal law or any requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw 5/4/2015

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Comments/Explanation: There are no low income or minority populations living in the project area. Low income or minority visitors to the area would not be affected differently by the proposed activities than any other visitor.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 04/25/15

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).

Comments/Explanation: This trail addition would not 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).

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw 5/11/2015

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).

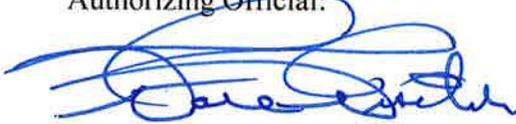
Comments/Explanation: The proposed project would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of species. Any ground-disturbing activities would occur within the already disturbed/existing area already occupied by such species within the general vicinity.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Lonnie Huter 4/23/2015

D: SIGNATURE

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for this situation.

Authorizing Official:



Tate Fischer
Field Manager
Four Rivers Field Office

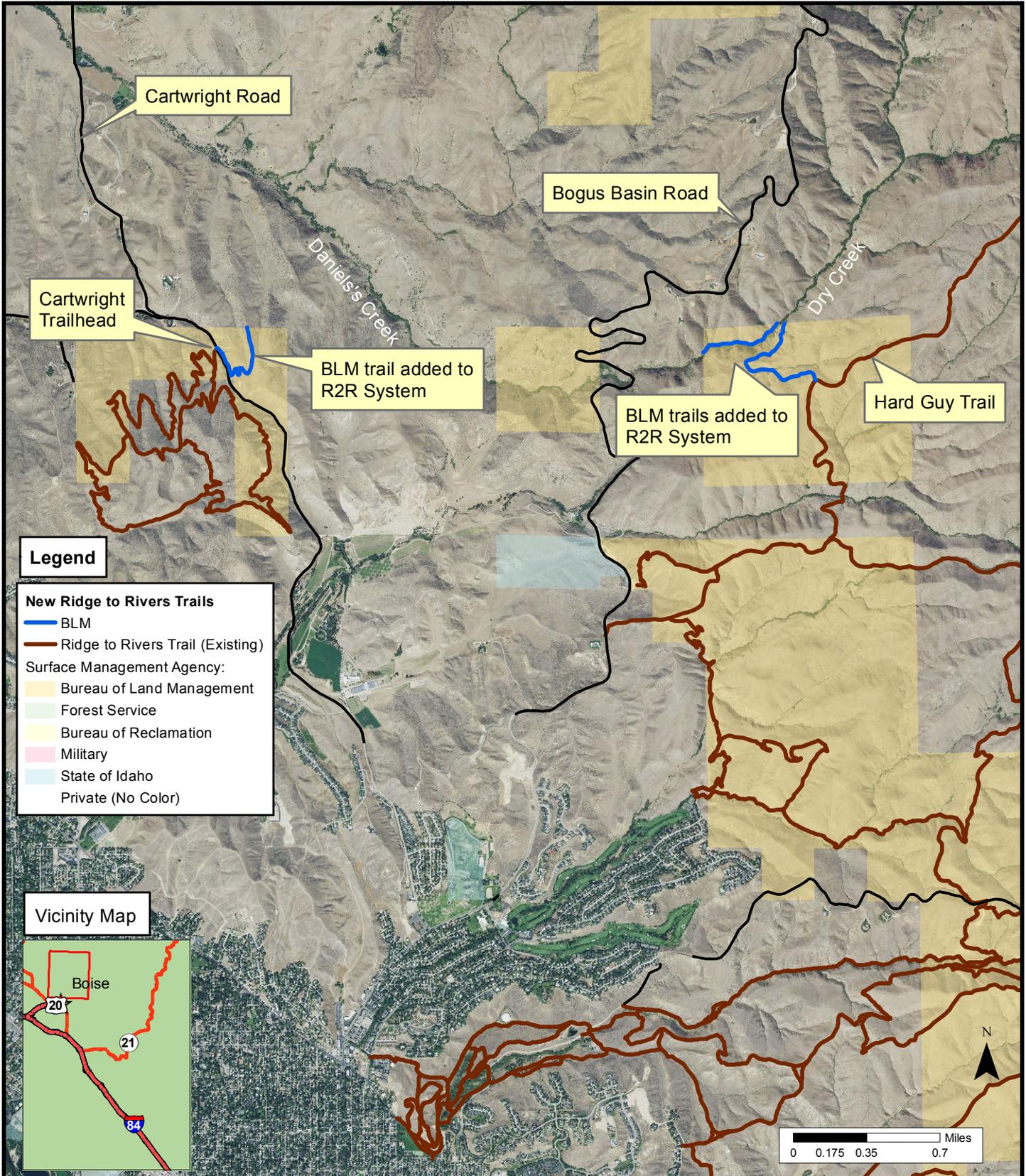
Date:

07/23/15

Prepared By/Contact Person:

Larry Ridenhour, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 208-384-3334

Existing BLM Trails to be added to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System
 DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2015-0016-CX



U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
 Boise District
 Map date: July 2015



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Decision Record
Daniels Creek – Dry Creek Trail Additions
DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2015-0010-CX

I have reviewed the plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to add about 2 miles of existing trails that cross BLM administered lands to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System. These segments of existing trail connect to trails on private parcels that have recently provided easements for public use.

Authority: The statutory authority underlying this decision is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) contains the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) general land use management authority over the public lands, and establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principal uses of those lands (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(8)). Section 302 of FLPMA directs that public lands be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in accordance with the land use plans developed under Section 202 of the Act. The 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan provides the additional management direction required by FLMA.

Terms, Compliance and Monitoring:

BLM recreation staff and law enforcement personnel, in cooperation with City of Boise's Ridge to Rivers staff will monitor recreation use in the area to ensure users are staying on trails and not traveling cross-country. Additionally, Ridge to Rivers trail maintenance staff and volunteers will monitor trail conditions to identify resource concerns (e.g. erosion, trail widening, etc.). Changes in trail management will be made as necessary, based on monitoring results.

Rationale for Decision:

The decision to add about 2 miles of existing trails to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System has been made in consideration of implementing the intent of the 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision that directs the agency to:

1. "...provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities on public lands. Recreation facilities (will be) provided to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety, and to protect recreation facilities."
2. Designate the Boise Front as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).
3. Within the 12,000 acre Boise Front Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the following activities will receive management emphasis or resource use limitations to further protect resource values:
 - a. Motorized and non-motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails;

- b. The area will be managed to conform to Class II Visual Resource guidelines;
- c. Water control structures will be installed to reduce erosion where needed.”

The decision also conforms to the multi-agency adopted *Public Land Open Space Management Plan for the Boise Foothills* (2000) that lists a principal goal and related objectives for recreation use on the public lands of the Boise Foothills:

Goal: Provide the public with a wide range of recreational opportunities compatible with other plan goals at appropriate places, while taking care to protect the ecological diversity of the Foothills.

Objective 1: Manage the recreation uses to be compatible with the natural resources found in the Foothills;

Objective 2: Manage trails and trailheads to protect Foothills resources, take pressure off the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), reduce trail conflicts, and offer additional recreation opportunities;

Objective 3: Have recreational activities or improvements avoid or minimize impacts to important resource values;

Objective 4: If negative impacts to critical resources occur due to a recreational facility or use, seek to mitigate, relocate, or impose seasonal closures to address the impacts.”

The new trail additions will allow BLM to actively manage recreation use on public lands in order to provide a quality recreational experience for current and future users while protecting natural and cultural resources and minimizing conflicts with private land owners.

Protest/Appeal Language:

43CFR Sec. 2931.8 - If you are adversely affected by a decision under this part, you may appeal the decision under parts 4 and 1840 of this title. This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4.21(b). Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer, Tate Fischer, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705. The person/party must also serve a copy of the appeal on the Office of the Solicitor, Field Solicitor-U.S. Department of the Interior, University Plaza, 960 Broadway Avenue, Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83706.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4.21 (b), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether public interest favors granting the stay.

All decisions of the authorized officer under 43 CFR 2931.8 shall remain effective pending appeal unless the Secretary rules otherwise. Petitions for stay of decisions shall be filed with the Office of Hearing and Appeals, Department of the Interior.

Authorizing Official:

Date:

7/23/2015



Name: Tate Fischer

Title: Four Rivers Field Office Manager