

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT**

**Categorical Exclusion Review**

**I. Background**

**BLM Office:** Salem District Office

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

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2015-0002-CX

**Date:** 5/7/2015

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Salem District Recreation Site and Trail Maintenance

**Location of Proposed Action:** Salem District developed recreation sites and trail systems, as well as informal sites created by users.

**Location of Recreation Sites and Areas**

1. Larch Mountain Environmental Education Site
2. Marmot Recreation Site
3. Sandy Ridge Trailhead
4. Wildwood Recreation Site
5. Molalla River Corridor and Campgrounds
6. Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
7. Aquila Vista Environmental Education Site
8. Canyon Creek Recreation Site
9. Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site
10. Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site
11. Yellowbottom Recreation Site
12. Old Miner's Meadow Group Use Site
13. Quartzville Creek Recreation Corridor and Dispersed Campsites
14. Dogwood Recreation Site
15. Valley of the Giants

16. Alsea Falls Recreation Site
17. Alder Glen Recreation Site
18. Missouri Bend Recreation Site
19. Dovre Recreation Site
20. Elk Bend Recreation Site
21. Fan Creek Recreation Site
22. Sheridan Peak Overlook
23. Pechuck Lookout
24. Mill Creek Recreation Site

#### **Designated Trail Systems**

1. Molalla River Trail System
2. Alsea falls Trail System
3. Sandy Ridge Trail System
4. Upper Nestucca OHV Trail System

#### **Other Areas Covered under this CX**

1. Dispersed Camping Sites
2. Unauthorized User Created Trails
3. Dispersed Day Use Sites

**Land Use Allocation(s):** Matrix, Late Successional Reserve, and Riparian Reserves

**Description of Proposed Action:** The following maintenance is required for safe operation of the Salem District developed recreation sites and trails. The actions covered under this document are grouped into three categories:

**Developed Recreation Site Maintenance** *43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.210(F), allows for routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity.*

**Description:** Work may include: repainting structures, replacing deteriorating or unsafe structures such as fences, beams, signs, kiosks, bollards, gates, retaining walls, landscape

plantings, parking stops, fee boxes storage sheds, vault toilets, utility systems, collection sites and off-site disposal of waste, ashes, illegally dumped material.

**Design Features:** Work will be done as outlined in the BLM *Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment (2011)*, in full compliance with OSHA regulations and make use of the safest effective chemicals available, along with hand tools and small motorized power equipment such as chainsaws, leaf blowers, power drills and power washers. Work will implement the design features of the NMFS 2011 *Biological Opinion for Programmatic Activities* when actions occur near streams with ESA-listed fish. These activities will primarily be done March through October. The activities conducted will follow the standards of batched biological assessments and FWS Letters of Concurrence for not likely to adversely affect actions or Biological Opinions for likely to adversely affect actions in effect at the time and for the area where the activity will occur near or within the habitat of ESA-listed wildlife.

All work will include measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants. These measures include, but are not limited to the following: Consistent with project objectives, retain native vegetation in and around project locations and minimize soil disturbance; use sterile material or native species weed-free straw and mulch; make sure soil disturbing tools and equipment are clean before entering project sites; in infested project areas, clean soil disturbing tools and equipment before leaving sites; and use native plant species to promote competitive exclusion of invasive plant species.

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. Prior to performing work on any property that is listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, confirm the type of work, maintenance, repairs by consulting the District Archaeologist. Further consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office may be required.

### **Trail Systems Maintenance**

*516 DM 11.9G(2,3,4) allows for (2) Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan. (3) Temporary closure of roads and trails. (4) Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.*

**Description:** Maintenance of existing motorized and non-motorized trail systems within the designated Special Recreation Management Areas. These actions may include: pruning shrubs and trees growing into trail corridors, replacing deteriorating signs; adding new signs, kiosks, gates, portable sanitation devices; providing drainage for trails using ditches or culverts, armoring trail tread to prevent continued deterioration, rebuilding or replacing trail bridges, boardwalks and puncheon in their same location, and temporarily closing trails or rerouting existing trails when the reroute replaces an existing trail.

**Design Features:** Work will be done primarily during the spring, summer, and fall in compliance with OSHA regulations, using Best Management Practices in accordance with

Appendix I of the 2015 Draft RMP for the activities planned. Work will also use the most current methods as outlined in the BLM *Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment (2011)* and the *International Mountain Bicycle Association Trail Solutions Guide (2004)*. Work will implement the design features of the NMFS 2011 *Biological Opinion for Programmatic Activities* when actions occur near streams with ESA-listed fish. The activities conducted will follow the standards of batched biological assessments and FWS Letters of Concurrence for not likely to adversely affect actions or Biological Opinions for likely to adversely affect actions in effect at the time and for the area where the activity will occur near or within the habitat of ESA-listed wildlife.

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**Soil Erosion and Vegetation Management** 516 DM 11.9D(10), *allows for Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices (e.g., mats/straw/chips), and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands.*

**Management Description:** Vegetation and soil erosion management using mechanical methods such as hand pulling, grubbing, and tilling to remove invasive species, removing overgrown vegetation from established recreation sites, removing toxic plants such as poison ivy and poison oak, mowing, mulching, chipping, thinning, seeding, the removal of any vegetation that is becoming destructive to facilities and revegetating areas with native species. Soil erosion measures include construction of retaining walls less than four feet high not located in active flood channels, steps to prevent streambank erosion, trail and walkway armoring, creating drainage swales.

**Design Features:** The latest methods and Best Management Practices (Appendix I, 2015 Draft RMP) will be used. Any in-water work activities will be approved by either the RA or District hydrology staff to ensure that the proposed mitigation practices will meet the intent of the BMP's. Work will be carried out as outlined in the 1995 RMP Aquatic Conservation Strategy, BLM *Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment (2011)*, and locally developed best practices and methods. Work will implement the design features of the NMFS 2011 Biological Opinion

for Programmatic Activities when actions occur near streams with ESA-listed fish. Work will generally take place during the spring, summer and fall. The activities conducted will follow the standards of batched biological assessments and FWS Letters of Concurrence for not likely to adversely affect actions or Biological Opinions for likely to adversely affect actions in effect at the time and for the area where the activity will occur near or within the habitat of ESA-listed wildlife.

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## **II. Land Use Plan Conformance:**

**Land Use Plan Name:** *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 RMP)

**Date Approved:** March 1995

**Date Amended:** January 2001 by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, dated January 2001 (S&M/ROD) with subsequent Annual Species Reviews. These actions comply with the S&M/ROD as described above and utilize the December 2003 species list. This list incorporates species changes and removals made as a result of the 2001, 2002, and 2003 Annual Species Reviews (ASR) with the exception of the red tree vole. Red tree vole in the mesic zone remains Survey and Manage Category C as defined in the S&M/ROD.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): 1995 RMP Management Actions/Directions- All Land Use Allocations- Continue to operate and maintain developed recreation sites and developed trail systems. 1995 RMP Management Actions/Directions- Riparian Reserves- to ensure that they do not prevent, and to the extent practicable contribute to, attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. Adjust dispersed and developed recreation practices that retard or prevent attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. Where adjustment measures such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, increased maintenance, relocation of facilities, and/or specific site closures are not effective, eliminate the practice or occupancy. 1995 RMP Management Actions/Directions- Late-Successional Reserves- Retain and maintain existing recreation developments consistent with other management actions/direction for Late-

Successional Reserves. Use adjustment measures, such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, or increased maintenance, when dispersed or developed recreation practices retard or prevent attainment of Late-Successional Reserve objectives.

### III. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with. 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.210(F), allows for routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity **Or** 516 DM 11.9D(10), which allows for Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices (e.g., mats/straw/chips), and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands. **Or** 516 DM 11.9G(2,3,4) which allows for (2) Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan. (3) Temporary closure of roads and trails. (4) Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

#### A. Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215)		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p><b>(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</b></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The maintenance and prevention steps are designed to benefit public health and safety.</p>		No
<p><b>(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?</b></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Significant impacts to cultural resources are not anticipated from these actions because design features require stopping work and notification if cultural resources are discovered. Other unique elements listed will not be significantly impacted because maintenance and management of developed and dispersed recreation will follow RMP guidance specific to the applicable natural resources or special designation.</p>		No
<p><b>(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?</b></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The effects of this maintenance and prevention steps are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources because the public supports BLM efforts to maintain recreation facilities.</p>		No
<p><b>(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</b></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The maintenance and prevention steps are not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial, highly uncertain, or unique or unknown risks.</p>		No

<p><b>(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> Implementation of the maintenance and prevention steps do not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. See (d), above.</p>	No
<p><b>(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> Maintaining BLM developed recreation sites and reducing impacts of dispersed recreation activity in a variety of watersheds and habitat types spread throughout the Salem District is not an activity that will cumulatively negatively impact the environment either at the site or regional level because these effects are beneficial, and concentrated in small geographic extents.</p>	No
<p><b>(g) 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?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> Sites eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places will not be significantly impacted by these actions, because the design features and standard operating procedures the BLM follows require expert input from cultural resource specialists before changes are made to properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>	No
<p><b>(h) 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?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> The proposed action will not have significant effects to ESA-listed fish and wildlife, Critical Habitat or Threatened Species as long as all design features are followed.</p>	No
<p><b>(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> The maintenance and prevention steps follow all known Federal, State, or local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. Application of BMP's will meet the CWA.</p>	No
<p><b>(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> The proposed action will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations because the actions covered in this Categorical Exclusion will not decrease access or availability of planned recreation opportunities on BLM land in the district. Maintenance of recreation settings and facilities will have beneficial impacts to all populations.</p>	No
<p><b>(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)?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> There are no anticipated effects to access of sacred sites because no known sites will have their access restricted by these actions, and the actions in this categorical exclusion will maintain setting characteristics and not change physical integrity of the landscape.</p>	No
<p><b>(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)?</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> The proposed actions with the included preventative design features will not contribute to the introduction and spread of invasive plant species because they are designed to prevent spread of invasives and remove invasive species from recreation settings.</p>	No

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. District personnel have reviewed the proposed action, and none of the 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (see Table 1, above) apply to the proposed action. This categorical exclusion has no potential for significant impacts for the following reasons. The proposed action and associated design features comply with the 1995 RMP, and have the same or similar effects as the actions described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.210 (F) or 516 DM 11.9D(10) or 516 DM 11.9G(2,3,4).

**IV. Concurrences and Signature:**

Specialist Review and Concurrence:

Review Required	Review Not Required	Resource	Name	Initial
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquatic/Fisheries	Bob Ruediger	BR
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Botany	Claire Hibler	CH
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	HAU
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology	Steve Wegner	SJW
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEPA Compliance	Carolyn Sands	CDS
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	Jeff McCusker	JM
<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Realty	N/A	N/A
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soils	Steve Wegner	SJW
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife	Roy Price	RDP
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cascade Field Manager	John Huston	JH
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acting Mary's Peak Field Manager	Andy Frazier	AFF
x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tillamook Field Manager	Karen Schank	KMS

**Contact Person:** For additional information concerning this CX review; contact Carolyn Sands, NEPA Coordinator, BLM Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (503) 315-5973.

Authorized Official:



Kim Titus  
Salem District Manager

Date:

6/3/2015

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT**

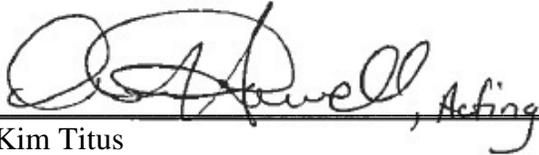
**Decision Record**

**Decision and Rationale on Action**

I have decided to implement the Salem District Recreation Site and Trail Maintenance categorical exclusion based on my review of the attached categorical exclusion review (CX# DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2015-0002-CX), I have determined that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and that no further environmental analysis is required for the following reasons. The proposed action and associated design features comply with the 1995 RMP, and have the same or similar effects as the actions described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.210 (F) *or* 516 DM 11.9D(10) *or* 516 DM 11.9G(2,3,4). None of the 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (see CX Table 1) apply to the proposed action.

**Implementation Date**

This project will be implemented on or after the date of the my signature.

 Date 6/3/2015  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Titus  
District Manager

**Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

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 decision, contact Jeff McCusker, Salem District Office 1717 Fabry Rd. Salem, OR 97306 (503) 375-5613