



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Date 11/06/2015

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CA-C05000-2016- 005**

Valley View Trail Rehabilitation
North Cow Mountain Recreation Area
Mendocino County, CA

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah Field Office
2550 North State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
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Date: 11/06/2015

Categorical Exclusion Number: 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 (2.6)

Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effect.

Case File/Serial Number: N/A

Project Title: Valley View Trail Rehabilitation

Name and Address of Applicant: Ukiah Valley Trails Group
413 N State Street
Ukiah CA 95482

Project Location: North Cow Mountain Recreation Area in Mendocino County, CA within the following public lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian, California
Township 15 North., Range 12 West.
section 25. (see site location map)

Land Status Verified: Yes

Affected Surface Area: less than 1 acre

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan: This proposed action conforms to the conditions and guidelines of the following land use plan:

Name of Plan:

Ukiah Resource Management Plan (2006),

Section 2.14 Recreation – Goals:

- Provide a range of outdoor recreation settings, experiences, and opportunities that balance the public's demand while minimizing recreation impacts to other resources.
- Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources
- Encourage collaborative partnerships, volunteers, and citizen-centered public service.

Section 2.15 Interpretation and Education – Objectives:

- Promote public understanding of and cooperation with BLM policies, standards and environmental guidelines.
- Enhance visitor experiences on public lands.
- Provide for public safety.

Background Information: On Friday December 19th, 2015 the Ukiah Valley Trails group proposed a trail rehabilitation project for a 236 foot section of the Valley View Trail. A field visit was taken by the Outdoor Recreation Planner and the Ukiah Valley Trails Group in December of 2014. This trail has suffered major erosion problems due to design. Over time many trail users have bypassed the original trail due to safety concerns and created new trails, causing negative impacts to the surrounding environment. This Categorical Exclusion is proposed to rehabilitate this section of trail so that it is more sustainable and creates a safe route for recreationists, and is in concurrence with the Ukiah Resource Management Plan (RMP, 09/25/2006) recreation goal to ensure quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.

Proposed Action (include discreet actions): The action proposed includes rehabilitating a 236 foot segment of the Valley View Trail on North Cow Mountain. The trail will be moved 22.5 feet North West of the existing trail. The trail will be temporarily closed on work day(s). Rehabilitation will be finished by the Ukiah Valley Trails Group in calendar year 2016. The trail will be moved to a slope that can better accommodate trail traffic.

Review of Exceptions to CX: The Departmental Manual (516 DM 2.3A(3) and 516 DM 2, Appendix 2) requires that before any action described by the above CX is used, the list of Extraordinary Circumstances to Categorical Exclusions listed in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 must be reviewed for applicability in each case. The proposed action cannot be categorically excluded if one or more of the listed exceptions apply, thus requiring either an EA or an EIS. When no exceptions apply, the above type of Bureau of Land Management, action normally does not require the preparation of an EA or EIS. The following exceptions apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) and the reviewer must verify that the proposed action DOES NOT:

- 2.1 Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.**
- 2.2 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.**
- 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].**
- 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**
- 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potential significant environmental effects.**

- x **2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.**
- x **2.7 Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.**
- x **2.8 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.**
- x **2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.**
- x **2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).**
- x **2.11 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).**
- x **2.12 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).**

Prepared by:

Sarah Mathews –Outdoor Recreation Planner
Specialist

11/06/2015
Date

Action is Categorically Excluded from the NEPA Process

I have reviewed the proposal in accordance with the departmental categorical exclusion review guidelines. This proposal is also in conformance with the above land use plan(s).

Tracy Cline, Resources Supervisor

Date