

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DOCUMENTATION for
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area
Proposed Action Title/Type: **Upper Klamath River Raft Race**
NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-ORWA-L040-2016-0007- CX
Project Location: Upper Klamath River Canyon, Spring Island to Stateline

A. Background

Description of Proposed Action:

The Oregon Rafting Team has applied for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to hold a whitewater down river rafting race on the upper Klamath River on April 3, 2016. Participants would launch boats at Spring Island River Access and take them out at the Stateline Recreation Site. The total staging area acreage impacted would be approximately one acre. Racers would land for a short break at the scouting area above Caldera rapid before starting the actual race. The race would be timed from above Caldera rapid to Stateline Falls, a distance of 7 miles, see the attached map. The race organizer anticipates a maximum of 50 participants, approximately 5-10 rafts and 5-10 kayaks. Safety and logistics would be handled by the race organizer under International Rafting Federation (IRF) guidelines and per the operations plan incorporated into the SRP. The SRP would govern all operational aspects of the event such as logistics, safety, parking, and clean up. All other aspects of the competition (awards, meals, etc) would be held off site in the town of Ashland, OR.

The race organizer has pursued the Upper Klamath River as a site for a competition because it offers continuous, high quality whitewater with reliable river flows, and the Upper Klamath is situated close to the I-5 corridor and is centrally located between major whitewater boating population centers of Portland, OR and central California.

Proposed Implementation:

The race organizer has scheduled this event for Sunday April 3, 2016. The event is anticipated to be an annual spring time event; this document will analyze project implementation for 10 years, through 2025.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize a SRP to the applicant to host a whitewater rafting race on the Upper Klamath River. The need for the action is established under the Federal Land Policy Management Act to provide the American public with reasonable access to recreational opportunities on public lands.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan
Date Approved/Amended: June 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision: Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS), approved June 1995, page 50 “Manage the Special Recreation Management Area to emphasize whitewater boating...”

C. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 2932.5 516 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 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 extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. The following documentation describes whether or not the extraordinary circumstances apply to the project:

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
Will the proposed categorical exclusion action:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety. Rationale: The event organizers will manage crowd control, vehicle travel, litter, and sanitation per the operations plan attached to the Special Recreation Permit, to protect general public and participant health and safety.		X
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. Rationale: The race event will take place on the Upper Klamath Wild and Scenic river corridor, in a manner very similar to a commercial rafting tour. Rafting tours have been a routine, acceptable activity on the Upper Klamath for 40+ years. Rafting does not result in significant impacts to these resources.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. Rationale: Whitewater rafting is a routine activity on the Upper Klamath River and is not considered to be highly controversial.		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. Rationale: This is a routine activity very similar to a commercial rafting tour. Potential environmental effects are minimal and not uncertain or unknown.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Rationale: This Categorical Exclusion analyzes an annual event for a 10 year period. The organizer would be required to apply for a Special Recreation Permit annually. The event is not expected to have significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. Rationale: This action is not expected to create significant cumulative environmental effects.		X
2.7 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. Rationale: This proposal would not have significant impacts to properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. This proposal constitutes an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this undertaking consists of the river and its flood zone and the developed recreational sites at the launch point and at the end of the race. These areas are previously disturbed, are regularly used for similar purposes, and are not likely to contain cultural sites vulnerable to impacts of this type of undertaking. A project design feature originally added at the request of the Klamath Tribes protects a site near the race start point. This undertaking is exempted from further consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under the terms of the Oregon Protocol Appendix E Recreation Exemption 2 regarding Special Recreation Permits. This protocol was developed through a national programmatic agreement for NHPA compliance procedures on BLM land under 36 CFR 800.14. Since no historic properties would be likely to be affected and since the undertaking qualifies for exemption, this proposal would not have significant impacts to cultural resources.		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. Rationale: There are no proposed species, listed species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act that would be affected by the proposed raft race. The BLM made a "No Effect" determination on proposed and listed species and designated critical habitat. This reach of the Upper Klamath River is considered occupied by a small number of Shortnose suckers and possibly a very small number of Lost River suckers. Both of these species are migratory and are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This river reach contains no Critical Habitat for any ESA		X

listed species. Due to the small number of listed fish in the project reach, absence of designated Critical Habitat and the nature of the action, there will be no significant impacts to Endangered or Threatened species or critical habitat.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: No laws would be violated by the authorization of this Categorical Exclusion.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: This event would not adversely affect any populations.		
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
Rationale: This proposal would not limit access to sacred sites by traditional practitioners based on a consultation meeting with the Klamath Tribes (Tribes) on a previous version of this permit February 21, 2008. A project design feature which was added at the request of the Tribes protects a cultural site near the race start point. With this measure to protect site integrity in place, the Tribes had minimal concerns.		
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).		X
Rationale: The event will be subject to all state of Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species regulations.		

The proposed action would not meet any of the above extraordinary circumstances, or fail to comply with Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects) – to avoid direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution, or impact RMP exclusion and avoidance areas.

Surveys and Consultation

Surveys and/or consultation are not needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary (appropriate fields are Initialed and Dated by responsible resource specialist):

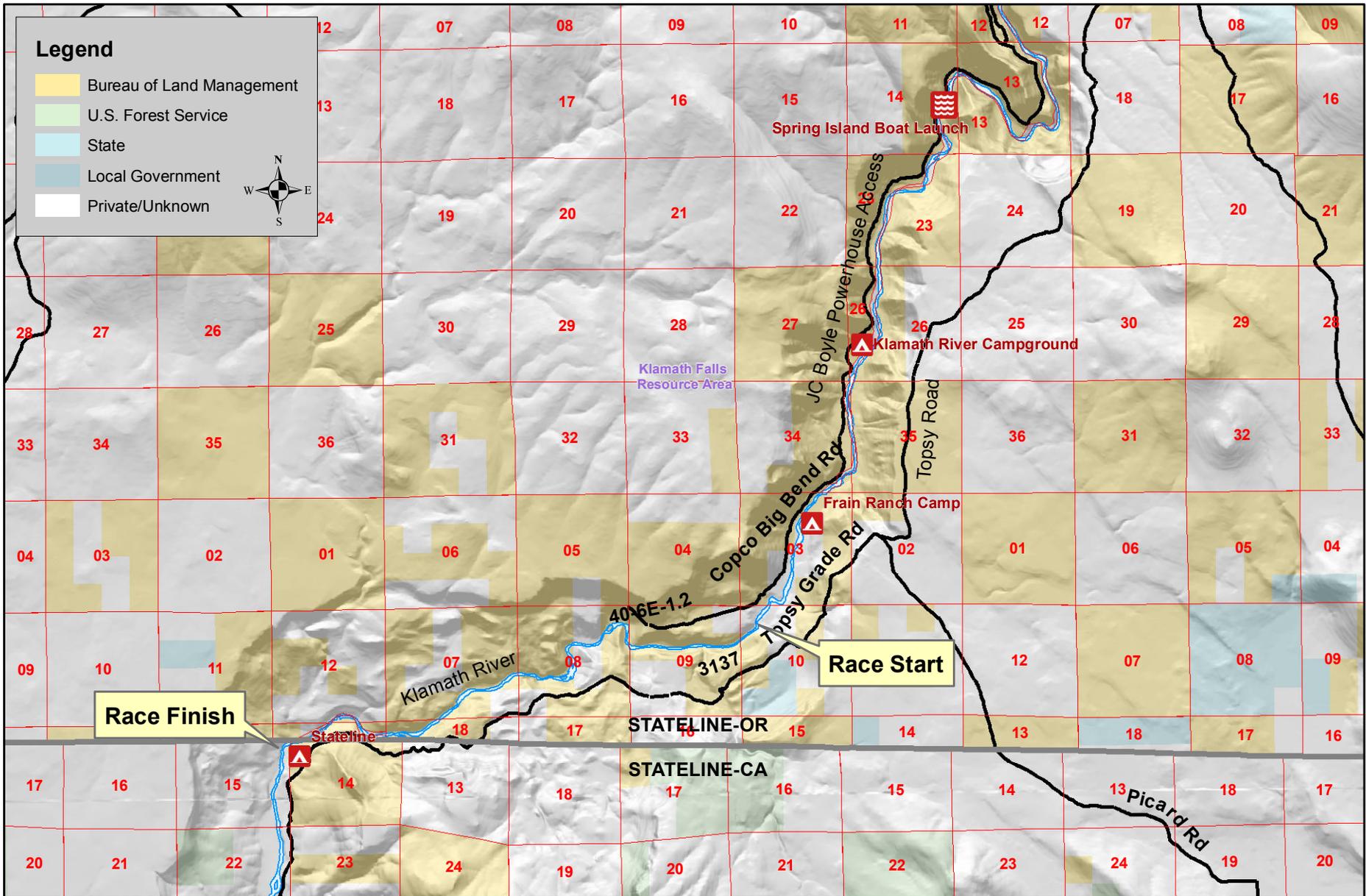
Surveys	Are Completed	Will Be Completed	Are Not Needed
SS* Animals			SGH 12/28/2015 RHR 1/14/16
SS* Plants			KAJ 2/17/2016
Cultural Resources			LN 1/29/2016
Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS* Animal Consultation			SGH 12/28/2015 RHR 1/14/16
Botanical Consultation			KAJ 2/17/2016
Cultural Consultation			LN 1/29/2016
*(SS = Special Status)			

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

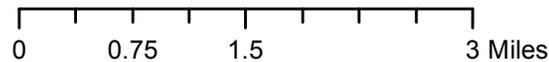
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Klamath River Race, DOI-BLM-ORWA-L040-2016-0007-CX



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