

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

OFFICE: Upper Willamette Field Office, Eugene District

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-ORWA-E060-2016-0006-CX

PROJECT NAME: Gate Repair and Installation

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: T15S R02W Sec. 3; T19S R02W Sec. 29; T17S R01W Sec. 15; T15SR01W Sec. 31; T16SR02W Sec. 17

**A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures**

The project would include the repair of one existing forest road gate, installation of three new forest road gates, and replacement of two existing recreational facility gates. All work would occur within the existing road prisms and there would be no new surface area disturbance. Work would be conducted over approximately 7-21 days from April to October 2016.

The proposed installation and replacement of the gates would protect natural resources and control access to areas suffering from degradation, damage, illegal dumping, and theft of government property. All forest road gates would be closed year-round and opened as needed for project and administrative uses. The forest road gates would not affect any areas with legal public access and would not interfere with any administrative uses or valid existing Rights of Way or easements. Recreational facility gates would be opened seasonally. Recreational facility gates may be opened at additional times on a case by case basis.

1. The existing forest gate [Bear Creek] on Road 19-2-20.1 was damaged by a falling tree. Partial replacement of the gate is required to restore it to operability.
2. A new forest gate [Courtney Creek] is being proposed on Road 15-2-3.1 to limit unauthorized public access to a rock pit. This gate would reduce the loss of mineral resources (rock and gravel) as well as provide a secure area for short-term storage of equipment.
3. A new forest gate [Camp Creek] is being proposed on Road 17-1-9 to reduce impacts of unauthorized OHV traffic. The unauthorized use is causing soil and timber resource damage.
4. A new forest gate [Allison Creek] is being proposed on Road 16-2-17.0 to limit unauthorized public access to a native surface spur road that leads to power line access roads.
5. A replacement recreational facility gate [Clay Creek] is being proposed to replace an existing damaged park entrance gate at Clay Creek Campground.
6. A replacement recreational facility gate [Shotgun Creek] is being proposed to replace an existing deteriorated park entrance gate at Shotgun Creek Recreational Area.

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended. Date Approved: June 1995.

**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 decisions:**

"Manage roads to meet the needs identified under other resource programs (e.g. seasonal road closures for wildlife). Road management is mentioned or implied primarily under Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, Riparian Reserves, Late-Successional Reserves, Water Quality

and Soils, Wildlife, Fish Habitat, Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Species Habitat, Timber Resources, and Recreation.” pp. 98-101.

“Follow Best Management Practices (see Appendix C) for water quality and soil productivity to mitigate adverse effects on soils, water quality, fish, and riparian habitat during road construction and maintenance.” p. 102

“Part 2.I. Road Closures, Practices 1. “Barricade or block the road surface using gates, guard rail, earth/log barricades, boulders, logging debris or a combination of these methods. Avoid blocking roads that would need future maintenance (i.e., culverts, potential landslides, etc.) with unremovable barricades. Use guardrails, gates, or other barricades capable of being opened for roads needing future maintenance.” RMP, Appendix C, Best Management Practices, p. 165.

**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 2, Appendix 516 DM 11.9 G.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.”*

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 apply.

**D. Signature**

Signature of Project Lead:

/s/ Brian Barr  
Brian Barr – Hydrologic Technician

Date: April 7, 2016

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:

/s/ Kristine Struck  
Kristine Struck – Planning and Environmental  
Coordinator

Date: April 7, 2016

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/s/ William O’Sullivan  
William O’Sullivan – Field Manager

Date: April 7, 2016

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact: Brian Barr, Hydrologic Technician, 541-683-6497

**EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CHECKLIST**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-E060-2016-0006-CX

Gate Repair and Installation

*Review the proposed action against each of the 12 "extraordinary circumstances" listed below. Any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances, in which case, further analysis and environmental documents must be prepared for the action. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.*

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<p><b>1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> The repair and installation of forest road gates would have no significant impact to public health or safety as there is currently no legal public access to these roads. The roads currently have administrative access only. Repair and installation of the gates would reduce the potential for encounters between the public and authorized vehicles such as loaded logging trucks on the narrow, curving road system, and provide resource protection. Replacement of existing recreational facility gates would have no significant impact to public health or safety.</p>		X
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> The project is not located near any special features or designations. Gate repair and installation would reduce impacts to general natural resources by reducing unauthorized access.  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 would 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.</p>		X
<p><b>3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> There is no existing legal public access to the area and no unresolved conflicts over use of available resources affected by the presence or absence of gates.</p>		X
<p><b>4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair is a normal activity on BLM lands in western Oregon. The effects are well known and not significant.</p>		X
<p><b>5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair is a normal activity that would not establish a precedent for future actions.</p>		X

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
<p><b>6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  The project would not have a direct relationship with other BLM actions in the area.</p>		X
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  Gate installation and repair would not affect any known listed or eligible properties.</p>		X
<p><b>8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  The action would not significantly affect any candidate or listed species or their Critical Habitat. Since only lands within existing road prisms would be directly affected, there would be no habitat modification associated with the action. The action would not exceed current levels of ambient noise. The timing, amount and duration of any noise associated with the action would not adversely affect candidate or listed species. Controlled access behind the new gates, and restored controlled access behind the damaged gate, would result in a very slight reduction to disturbance to special status species if they are present.</p>		X
<p><b>9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  Gate installation and repair would not violate any Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law.</p>		X
<p><b>10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  Gate installation and repair would have no effect to low income or minority populations. There is currently no legal public access to the areas affected by the forest road gates. There would be no effect from the project to commercial opportunities such as timber harvest, Special Forest Products permits, or firewood gathering. Public access to recreational facilities would be unchanged by the replacement of existing gates at recreational facilities.</p>		X
<p><b>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).</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  Gate installation and repair would not limit access or affect the physical integrity to any known sacred or ceremonial Indian sites as no such sites are in the vicinity.</p>		X
<p><b>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).</b></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u>  The project would not contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species. Gate installation and repair may limit the spread of noxious weeds or other invasive species by limiting unauthorized access to some road systems, but the effect would be expected to be minimal due to existing levels of administrative and management utilization of the area.</p>		X

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**DECISION RECORD**  
DOI-BLM-ORWA-E060-2015-0016-CX  
Gate Repair and Installation

**Decision**

It is my decision to implement this action as described in the categorical exclusion documentation DOI-BLM-ORWA-E060-2016-0006-CX.

**Decision Rationale**

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 1995 Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (as amended). Based on the Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

**Administrative Remedies**

Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal it to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days of this decision for transmittal to the Board. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of a notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205.

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/s/ William O'Sullivan  
William O'Sullivan  
Field Manager  
Upper Willamette Field Office

April 7, 2016  
Date: