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

Categorical Exclusion Review

I. Background

BLM Office: Cascades Field Office **Lease/Serial/Case File No:** OR068688, S-1249

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0017-CX

Date: March 25, 2016

Proposed Action Title/Type: Houf O&C Road Use Permit

Location of Proposed Action: T. 11 S., R. 4 E., Section 19, W.M., Linn County, Oregon

Land Use Allocation(s): Late-Successional Reserve

Description of Proposed Action: Chris Woodward, land manager for the Houf property, has requested a short term permit to use existing BLM controlled roads for private timber haul. The Houf property is the SE¼SE¼ Section 19, T. 11 S., R. 4 E (See Attachment 1). The BLM controlled roads needed for haul from the private property are Quartzville Access, Yellowbottom, and Yellowbottom A. Road numbers and miles requested are in the below table. The Quartzville Access and Yellowbottom roads have a paved surface and the Yellowbottom A has a rocked road surface. The expected haul would take place between April and October 2016 although the term of the permit would be for two years. This permit is a discretionary grant.

Road Name	Road Number	Mileage Requested
Quartzville Road	12-3E-29.1	11.16 miles
Yellowbottom Road	11-4E-19	0.76 miles
Yellowbottom A Road	11-4E-19.3	0.95 miles

The Yellowbottom A Road passes within the buffer for an active Northern spotted owl nest. In order to Not Likely Adversely Affect the Northern spotted owl pair utilizing the nest, a timing restriction of no hauling from March 1st to July 15th will be adhered. The timing restriction could be reduced to June 1st if surveys determine the spotted owl pair is no longer nesting or have moved.

There is no new construction requested or allowed in this permit. The extent of ground disturbance will be limited to normal road maintenance activities to prepare existing roads for heavy haul and to keep them in shape during and after use. These activities may include cutting and removing roadside brush, blading rocked road surfaces, cleaning plugged ditches or culverts, and patching rocked road surfaces as needed.

II. Land Use Plan Conformance:

Land Use Plan Name: Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (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 (SM/ROD) with subsequent Annual Species Reviews. These actions comply with the SM/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 SM/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 p.55

- Continue to make BLM-administered lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with local comprehensive plans, Oregon statewide planning goals and rules, and the exclusion and avoidance areas identified in this resource management plan.

III. 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 E (12): "Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of the other compatibly developed rights-of-way."

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**
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No
Rationale: The Proposed Action will follow established rules concerning health and safety.		
(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?		No
Rationale: The Proposed Action will utilize existing established roads with no additional disturbance permitted which will not affect any unique geographic characteristics or resources within the project area. The Proposed Action will not affect drinking aquifers, wetlands, park, refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, national natural landmarks, prime farmlands, floodplains, migratory birds, and other ecologically significant or critical areas. The Proposed Action will not impact national monuments cultural or historic resources since neither are present within the project area. The Proposed Action will increase noise in the area of the Yellowbottom Recreation Site. However, the level of noise increase will not deter recreationists from using the site, so there will be no impact to the recreational value of the Yellowbottom Recreation Site.		

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215)		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	**Yes**	**No**
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]? ***Rationale:*** The effects of this Proposed Action are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		No
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? ***Rationale:*** Activities described in the Proposed Action 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.		No
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action event is a discretionary action and does not commit the BLM to pursuing further actions, and as such would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. See (d), above.		No
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? ***Rationale:*** There are no cumulative effects associated with the Proposed Action; therefore there are no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions. The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.		No
(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? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action has no significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places since there are no cultural or historic resources present within the project area.		No
(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? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action has no significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species. The Proposed Action will not have significant impacts to designated Critical Habitat for any Endangered or Threatened Species. The Proposed Action will Not Likely Adversely Affect the Northern spotted owl with the seasonal restriction of no hauling or disturbance activities from March 1st to July 15th. The restriction could be reduced to June 1st if surveys find that the spotted owl pair are no longer nesting or have moved.		No
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Salem RMP, which complies with all applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws.		No

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215)		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	**Yes**	**No**
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. No effects on population will occur.		No
(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)? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action will have no effect on access or use of sacred sites since there are no sacred, cultural, or historic resources present.		No
(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)? ***Rationale:*** The Proposed Action will not contribute, introduce or spread noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area. The Proposed Action will also not help promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of such species. Past actions of this type within this area have no documented results of new introduction, have not altered the continued existence of, and have not caused a significant spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive plant species.		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.

There is no potential for significant impacts for the following reasons:

- The Proposed Action will adhere to the no hauling on the ROW from March 1st to July 15th timing restriction for Northern spotted owls. The timing restriction could be reduced to June 1st if surveys determine the spotted owl pair is no longer nesting or have moved.
- The Proposed Action complies with the 1995 RMP, and have the same or similar effects as the actions described in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (12).
- None of the 12 extraordinary circumstances apply to the Proposed Action.

IV. Signature:

Specialist Review and Concurrence: ☐ None required or

Review Required	Review Not Required	Resource	Name	Comments	Initial/ Date
☒	☐	Aquatic/Fisheries	Bruce Zoellick	none	BZ 4-6-16
☐	☒	Botany			
☒	☐	Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	none	03/31/2016
☒	☐	Hydrology	Patrick Hawe		WPH 4/7/16
☒	☐	NEPA Compliance	Whitney Wirthlin	none	WRW 4/12/16
☒	☐	NRSA	Chris Papen	None	CP 4/12/16
☒	☐	Timber Resources	Jay Bernards		JB 3/31/16
☒	☐	Engineering	Dan Nevin		DN 3/28/16
☒	☐	Invasive/Non-Native	Heidi Christensen	none	HC 3/29/16
☐	☒	Silviculture			
☒	☐	Recreation	Traci Meredith		TMM 4/5/2016
☒	☐	Realty	Phyllis Gregory		PG 3-28-16
☒	☐	Wildlife	Corbin Murphy	* See Email-Seasonal Restriction	CM 3/29/2016
☒	☐	Fuels and Fire	Dan Eddy	from March 1st - July 15th	DE 5-09-16

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review; contact Whitney Wirthlin, Planning and Environmental Specialist, Cascades Field Office, BLM Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (503) 375-5612.

Authorized Official: _____ Date: 4/14/16
John Huston
Field Manager, Cascades Field Office

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT, CASCADES FIELD OFFICE

Decision Record

Decision and Rationale on Action

Based on my review of the attached categorical exclusion review (CX# DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2016-0017-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 will adhere to the no hauling on the ROW from March 1st to July 15th timing restriction for Northern spotted owls. The timing restriction could be reduced to June 1st if surveys determine the spotted owl pair is no longer nesting or have moved.
- The Proposed Action complies with the 1995 RMP, and have the same or similar effects as the actions described in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (12).
- None of the 12 extraordinary circumstances apply to the Proposed Action.

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the Table Rock Trailhead Vault Restroom Installation as described in the Proposed Action of the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation.

Implementation Date

This project will be implemented after July 15th, 2016, unless Northern spotted owl surveys determine that the timing restriction can be reduced to June 1st, 2016.

4/15/16

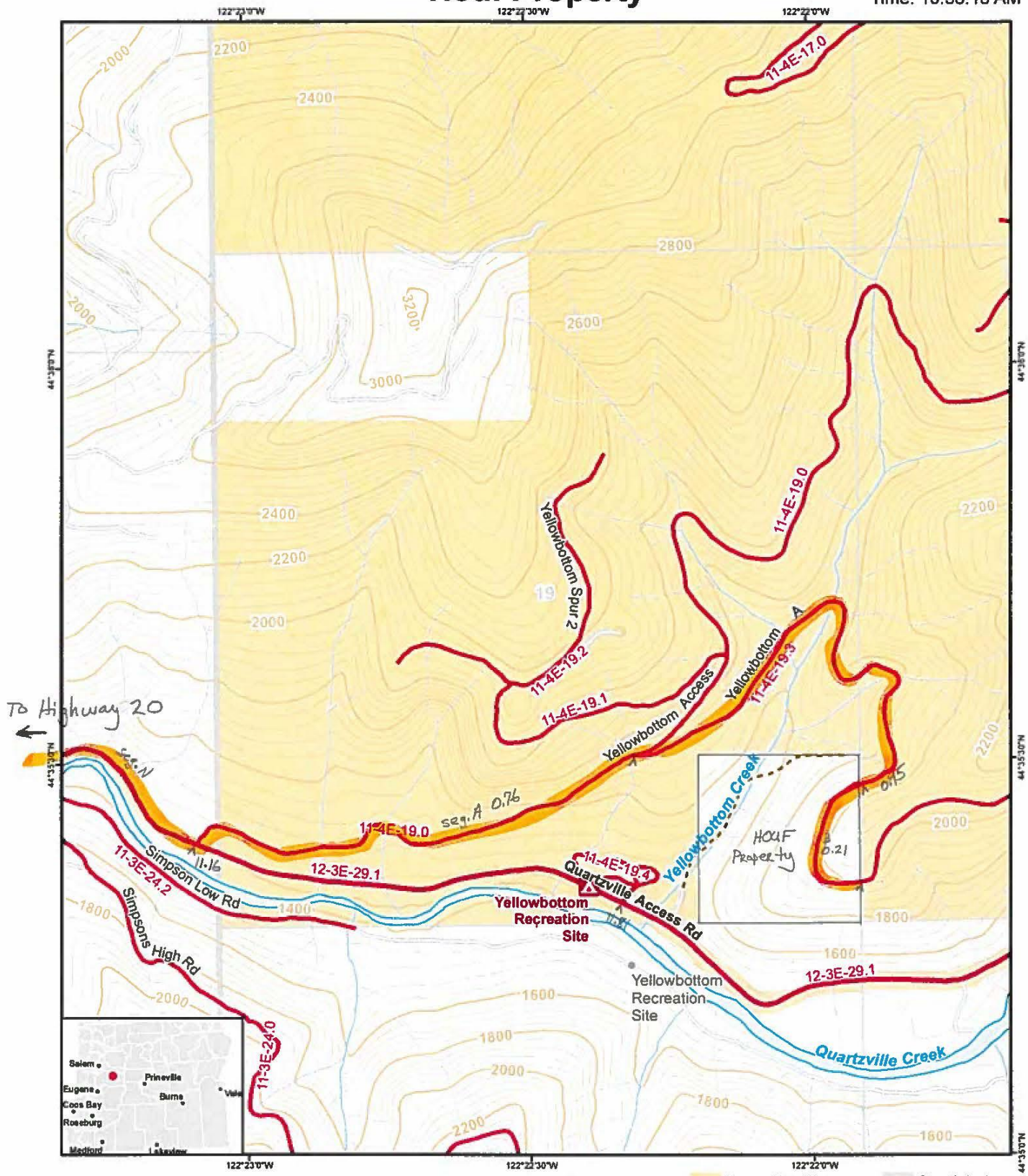
John Huston
Field Manager, Cascades Field Office

Date

Contact Person
For additional information concerning this decision, contact Whitney Wirthlin, Planning and Environmental Specialist, Cascades Field Office, BLM Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (503) 375-5612.

Houf Property

Date: 2/11/2016
Time: 10:36:18 AM



Section 19
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