

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Marys Peak Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: _____

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-ORWA-S050-2016-0008-CX Date: 05/05/2016

Proposed Action Title/Type Sea Bird Radios

Location of Proposed Action: Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area – T. 10 S., R. 11 W., Section 30, Willamette Meridian. Lincoln County, Oregon.

Land Use Allocation(s) Congressionally Withdrawn

Description of Proposed Action:

The BLM received applications from Oregon State University to conduct field work and common murre research at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA). The proposed action is to issue a permit to authorize this research. To facilitate data collection, two temporary radio antenna receiver stations will be installed to monitor the colony attendance of murre carrying radio transmitters. One small reference transmitter would be mounted where it can be heard by both listening stations.

Stations will be located away from peak visitation areas. Each station will consist of an antenna mounted on a pole with a small external pelican case (containing the receiver/recorder) and an external 12V deep cycle battery in a black box. The stations will be visited every 5-8 days to download data, check that the recorder is working, and to monitor 12V battery voltage. Station 1 will be located on the north end of the head and will consist of a dipole or 4-element yagi antenna mounted on a pole. Station 2 will be located on the bank (ocean side of the access road) and consist of a 4-element yagi mounted on a pole. This station will be listening to murre on Stegosaurus Rock and Lions' Head Rock.

Murres will be caught at sea and radio transmitters and satellite tags attached to their backs in May or June for the duration of the breeding season. The satellite tags will help to determine foraging areas of murre, while the radio transmitters will be used as a control for instrument effects. Additionally, colony attendance patterns of individual birds, as determined by radio telemetry, can be very informative of yearly conditions especially in relationship to other data being currently being collected (reproductive success, prey identification, etc.).

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Conformance: The proposed action is in conformance with the Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP), dated 1995, as amended, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decision:

- Manage scenic, natural, and cultural resources to enhance visitor recreation experiences and satisfy public land users (RMP, p. 41)

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 Part 46, Section 46.210 (e), which allows for “nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”

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 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (see Table 1, below) apply.

Table 1. Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215)

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p>2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</p> <p>Rationale: Placement of radio transmitters will have no impacts on public health or safety therefore would have no significant impacts on public health or safety.</p>		No
<p>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, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas?</p> <p>Rationale: Unique geographical characteristics and historic and cultural resources will not be impacted.</p>		No
<p>2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?</p> <p>Rationale: The effects of this project to install temporary transmitters are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.</p>		No
<p>2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p> <p>Rationale: Radio transmitter installations 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>2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: Implementation of this project 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 2.4.</p>		No
<p>2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: There are no cumulative effects associated with temporarily installing radio</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
transmitters; therefore there are no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions. Specialists to address this section:		
<p>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?</p> <p>Rationale: The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will not be impacted by the proposed action.</p>	No	
<p>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?</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Wildlife: There are no impacts anticipated to any listed wildlife species. The antenna element is very small (<5x5 feet) and mounted on existing infrastructure or installed pole (<20 feet high), such that there is no measurable risk of flight collisions from murrees or other avian species.</p> <p>Fish: No potential impacts upon species listed, or proposed to be listed, under the ESA or designated Critical Habitat have been identified, because proposed actions would occur outside of the nearshore marine waters and no proposed actions would occur that would affect critical habitat elements.</p> <p>Botany: There are no T&E botanical species known from the project areas, nor is there any potential habitat.</p>	No	
<p>2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p> <p>Rational: The proposed action follows all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>	No	
<p>2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>	No	
<p>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)?</p> <p>Rationale: The BLM will ensure that permittee activities do not limit access or use of areas of interest by local tribes. Activities will not impact sacred sites or other cultural values.</p>	No	
<p>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)?</p> <p>Rationale: Mineral soil exposed during the installation of the antenna is expected to be small and localized. The risk rating for adverse effects from the establishment of noxious weeds within the project area is low. In addition, Yaquina Head has a proactive weed abatement program, which further reduces any risk.</p>	No	

D. Specialist Review

Name	Resource
Ron Exeter	Botany
Katherine Fuller	Education Specialist
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife
Janet Johnson	YHONA Manager
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Compliance

Authorized Official: /s/ Paul Tigan _____ **Date:** 5/5/2016
Name: Paul Tigan
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Janet Johnson, Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, 750 NW Lighthouse Way, Newport, OR 541 574 3142.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT, MARYS PEAK FIELD OFFICE**

Decision Record

Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-ORWA-S050-2016-0008-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, permit issuance for common murre research at YHONA, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

Administrative Remedy: Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the BLM ePlanning website. The action is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR Part 4.

Implementation: This project will be implemented until October 31, 2016.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Janet Johnson, Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, 750 NW Lighthouse Way, Newport, OR 541 574 3142

Authorized Official: /s/ Paul Tigan
Paul Tigan
Marys Peak Field Manager

Date: 5/5/2016