



United States Department of the Interior BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bishop Field Office
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100
Bishop, California 93514
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Wild Willy's Hot Spring Parking Area Portable Outhouse Installation

Categorical Exclusion Documentation (DOI-BLM-CA-C070-2016-0021-CX)

A. Background

BLM Office: Bishop Field Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514

Lease/Serial/Case File Number: N/A

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-CA-C070-2016-0021-CX

Applicant: Bishop Field Office

Project Title: Wild Willy's Hot Spring Parking Area Portable Outhouse Installation

Project Location: Wild Willy's Hot Spring Parking Area (Legal Land Description: T. 3 S., R. 29 E., Section 27, S ½ NW ¼; Mount Diablo Base and Meridian); Bishop Resource Management Plan, Long Valley Management Area; Mono County, California.

Project Description and Rationale, Including any Stipulations:

The proposed action is to place a portable outhouse at the Wild Willy's Hot Spring parking area in Long Valley, Mono County, California.

The purpose and need for action is to improve the visitor experience and public health and safety by providing restroom facilities. Placing and maintaining a portable outhouse in the parking area would facilitate the proper disposal of human waste by visitors using the area, thereby improving the visitor experience and public health and safety while mitigating impacts to adjacent sagebrush and wet meadow habitats.

Outhouse installation would involve placing a portable, single-seat plastic outhouse on precast concrete footings which would be placed directly on the soil surface within the existing disturbance footprint of the Wild Willy's Hot Springs parking area. A rural, wooden security structure would be built around the outhouse to protect it from wind and vandalism. The security structure would be painted or stained to blend with the surrounding environment to minimize visual impacts and ensure conformance with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II

standards. The outhouse would be serviced as needed depending on use and may be locked or removed during the winter when snow cover restricts access and limits visitor use of the area.

Project Implementation Stipulations

The following stipulations would be applied during project implementation to avoid and minimize the probability of residual impacts and the need for subsequent mitigation:

1. If previously undiscovered surface or subsurface cultural resources are found during project implementation, operations would be stopped and the Bishop Field Office Archeologist and Field Manager would be notified. Any such findings would be evaluated by the Bishop Field Office Archeologist consistent with the State Protocol Agreement between the California BLM State Director and the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the BLM 8100 Manual, and the National Historic Preservation Act. The project would be modified to avoid adverse effects to any late discoveries of cultural resources prior to the resumption of work.
2. Construction activities required for project implementation would not be allowed between March 1 and June 30 to avoid disturbance to greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) during the breeding and nesting season.
3. All vehicles, tools and equipment used during project implementation would be washed, if necessary, prior to transport to the project site to avoid the importation or spread of invasive noxious weeds or non-native invasive plant species.
4. All improvements required for project implementation would be limited to the least intensive method required to meet project objectives.
5. Vehicular access to the project area would be limited to existing roads and parking areas. No cross-country vehicle travel would be allowed.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is subject to the *Bishop Resource Management Plan* (RMP), approved March 25, 1993, as amended. The proposed action has been reviewed and found to conform to the Bishop RMP, as amended, because it is clearly consistent with the terms and conditions of the applicable land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b and c) and as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a).

The proposed action conforms to, and is consistent with, the Bishop RMP as amended because it was specifically designed to ensure conformance with the General Polices, Area Manager's Guidelines, Valid Existing Management, Standard Operating Procedures, Decisions and Support Needs prescribed in the RMP.

The proposed action would occur within the Long Valley Management Area and is clearly consistent with the overall management direction for the area:

“Enhance recreation opportunities through the improvement of facilities. Protect and enhance wildlife and scenic values.” (Bishop RMP, Long Valley Management Area, Management Theme, p. 37).

The following RMP guidance specifically supports implementation of the proposed action:

“Provide for recreational hot spring use while mitigating impacts to endangered, threatened and sensitive species, riparian areas and wet meadows.” (Bishop RMP, Long Valley Management Area, Decisions, p. 37).

In addition, the proposed action does not violate any policies, decisions, or other terms or conditions prescribed by the Bishop RMP, as amended, including those specific to the Long Valley Management Area.

C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

This action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 G (4): Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action 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 43 CFR 46.215 apply (*see* attached Review of Extraordinary Circumstances).

Based on the information provided in this categorical exclusion documentation, the small scale and non-surface disturbing nature of the proposed project, the incorporation of stipulations to avoid and minimize the potential for any inadvertent adverse impacts from project implementation, and recommendations from staff, I find that there is no potential for significant impacts associated with this proposed action and that no further analysis pursuant to the NEPA is required.

D. Signature

/s/ Steven Nelson

08/26/2016

Steven Nelson
Bishop Field Manager

Date

E. Contact Person

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F. Decision Record and Administrative Remedies

A separate Decision Record for the proposed action will be issued based on this Categorical Exclusion Documentation and the attached Review of Extraordinary Circumstances. This Decision Record will include a description of administrative remedies that may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by that decision.