

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Project Name: Upper Klamath River Whitewater Race
Project Location: Klamath River Canyon, Spring Island to Stateline
BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area

CX Log #: OR-014-CX-08-05
County: Klamath County, Oregon

A. Background

Description of Proposed Action (Including Purpose and Need):

The Oregon Rafting Team has applied for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to hold a whitewater downriver rafting race on the upper Klamath River on April 19-20, 2008. Participants would launch boats at Spring Island River Access and take them out at the Stateline Rec. Site. Racers would land for a short break at Frain Ranch on the east bank before starting the actual race. The race would be timed from the Frain Ranch area to Stateline Falls, a distance of 7 miles, see the attached map. The race organizer anticipates 50 participants, approximately 5-10 rafts and 5-10 kayaks total. 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 tentatively scheduled this event for the weekend of April 19-20, 2008. Saturday April 19th would be a practice day, the race itself would be held on Sunday April 20th.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name, Date Approved:

- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS), 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 decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS), approved June 1995, page 50 "Klamath River Complex Special Recreation Management Area... Manage the special recreation management area to emphasize whitewater boating..."

C. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action has been identified as a categorical exclusion under 43 CFR 2932.5, Bureau of Land Management Categorical Exclusions, 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.*

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis or documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provided none of the Extraordinary Circumstances listed in 516 Departmental Manual 2, Appendix 2 (5/27/04) are met. The proposed action will:

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The event organizers will manage crowd control, vehicle travel, litter, and sanitation, to protect general public health and safety.		
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.		X
Rationale: There should be no significant impacts on any resources.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: Rafting is a routine activity on the Upper Klamath River and not highly controversial.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: This is a routine activity and effects are not uncertain or unknown.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: No precedence is established with this work.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This action will not create cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
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.		X
Rationale: There will be no impacts on NHRP properties.		
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.		X
Rationale: This action will not impact 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 this action.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: There would be no effect on low income or minority 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: There should be no affect on access to any sacred sites.		
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: There should be no contribution to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds from this action.		

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.

D. Surveys and Consultation

Surveys and/or consultation may be 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			SWH 3/3/08
SS Plants			LW 2/25/08
Cultural Resources			MD 3/3/08
Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS Animal Consultation*			SWH 3/3/08
Botanical Consultation			LW 2/25/08
Cultural Consultation	MD 3/3/08		
*(SS = Special Status)			

Remarks:

E. Decision

I considered input from the resource specialists and have determined that the proposed action would not create adverse environmental impacts or require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The proposed action has been reviewed against the criteria for extraordinary circumstances (listed above) as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate, as there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action is, therefore, categorically excluded from additional NEPA documentation.

It is my decision to proceed with the Proposed Action.

F. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom Date: 3/10/08
 (Signature)

Name: Donald J. Holmstrom
 Title: Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Grant Weidenbach, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-883-6916.

Klamath River Race, OR-014-CX-08-05

Spring Island Launch

Race Start

Stateline
Race Finish

