

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

1997

The Board moved to accept the following recommendations of Categorical Exclusions.

1. Endorse the existing Forest Service policy and interpretation for use of categorical exculsions related to extraordinary circumstances that preclude the use of categorical exclusions, but the potential effects the proposed action has, or may have, on the extraordinary circumstance. Support the use of CE's for projects within wilderness that are determined by the deciding officer to not significantly affect the wilderness resource or wilderness experience, and are not significantly controversial - including trail and bridge maintenance activities, and reconstruction of trails and bridges back to approved handbook standards and within the present alignment and location.
2. Request that Forest Service involve BCHA, local Back Country Horsemen clubs and all interested publics in further discussions and policy formation that effects back country and wilderness trails and use practices. Public involvement must involve comment from "all" interested publics, not just the "squeaky wheel".

The Public Liaison Chair was directed to write a letter in conjunction with Dennis Dailey to the Chief of the Forest Service with copies to all Regional Foresters and National Directors, Chairs, and State Presidents.