

Categorical Exclusions: Summary / Exercises 4 and 5

CATHY: So now you've learned what a CX is, where you find the CX lists. You learned about extraordinary circumstances and documentation requirements. So we'd like you to turn to Exercise 4 in your participant guide, and we'd like you to take notes on the top ten things to remember about categorical exclusions. Meagan, start us off.

MEAGAN: Number 10, an action must be on the CX list in order to be categorically excluded.

JOLIE: Number nine, don't forget to review the extraordinary circumstances list.

RICHARD: Number eight, you don't always have to document categorically excluded actions.

MEAGAN: Number seven, when you do document a categorical exclusion, use the appropriate forms in the handbook.

JOLIE: Number six, there are separate requirements for actions related to hazardous fuels, post-fire rehabilitation and the Energy Policy Act.

RICHARD: Number five, guidance for the use of CXs changes. So make sure to stay current.

MEAGAN: Number four, CX documentation is not an agency decision.

JOLIE: Number three, the headings in the BLM CX list are for organizational purposes only.

RICHARD: Number two, actions that are categorically excluded from NEPA analysis are not excluded from other legal requirements.

MEAGAN: And the number one thing to remember about categorical exclusions is if you have a CX available that applies to your action, use it!

CATHY: Thanks for that great summary of the course.

And now we're going to do one final exercise. We'd like you to turn to Exercise 5 in your participant guide, and this exercise will help you to apply what you learned from today to your job.

As you know, it's easy to forget what you've learned in a class if you don't write down how you are going to use it. And what we'd like you to do is first to write down what you are going to do differently with your CXs as a result of what you learned during this course. We'd like you to take your time, think about each of the steps we went through.

Think about what you work on most, what you struggle with the most, and where you think you are the weakest. Be sure to be clear and complete when you are writing

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down your thoughts so that you can refer back to your notes and understand them next week or next year.

Second, write down what you need -- what you still need in order to become a CX expert. Is it more practice? Maybe more guidance, some clarification. Just jot that down.

And then third, write down how you are going to meet your needs from number two. Would it help to discuss it with your supervisor or NEPA coordinator, maybe work with someone on a CX, do a shadow assignment or a detail, whatever it would take.

And the last step is to implement your plan. Make it happen. So if you are interested in learning more about planning -- other planning or NEPA topics, we've got several online in classroom classes and broadcasts. If you would like more information, just go to the resources tab on your screen.

And I would like to thank all of our instructors for all of their insights, and good luck to all of you in your future endeavors with categorical exclusions.