U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District

Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

BLM Office: Coos Bay District, Myrtlewood Field Office **Tracking No. DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2012-0004-DNA**

Applicant (if any): California Oregon Broadcasting

A. Description of the Proposed Action:
Proposed Action Title/Type: Signal Tree Beam Path DNA

Location / Legal Description: T. 29 S., R. 9 W., section 33

Proposed Action: The proposed action includes reducing interference in one signal beam path originating from a transmission tower located at the Signal Tree Communications Site. The BLM received a letter from the owners (California Oregon Broadcasting) in 2012 informing the Myrtlewood Field Manager of the situation as it concerns the EAS (Emergency Alert System), Amber Alerts, weather alerts (including tsunami warnings), and civil emergency alerts as well as their commercial transmissions of regular television programming. Trees occupying this path have reached heights to cause interference with the signal and the addition of water or snow on the tree needles exacerbates the problem. The request is to clear this path before the onset of the winter season when the interference from rain and snow will greatly reduce signal strengths.

The communication site itself has been administratively withdrawn and therefore is classified as non-forest lands and is not considered as part of the District's timber-producing lands. However, 0.21 acres of the beam path are located within the adjacent Matrix lands while 0.3 acres are in the non-forest classification. The entire path clearing would be 40 feet wide and extend out to the 3200-foot elevation topographic break (approximately 0.10 miles or 540 feet). The trees are approximately 70 years old.

There would not be any new road construction or renovation needed to facilitate project activities. However, a short access path may be needed for harvest equipment to access the treated area. This would follow an existing skid trail and would be for ingress and egress of the potential harvest equipment only. This would be covered with slash and barricaded upon completion of the harvest activities.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

This project is tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI BLM 1994) and it's *Record of Decision* (ROD/RMP), as supplemented and amended. The Coos Bay ROD/RMP is supported by and consistent with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan [NFP]) (USDA/USDI 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994a).

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (Objectives, terms, and conditions):

> Continue to make BLM lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with local comprehensive plans, Oregon statewide planning goals and rules, and the exclusion and avoidance areas identified in this RMP (USDI 1995, p. 65).

C. Identify applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Applicable NEPA documents:

Blue Ridge Communication Site Beam Path Maintenance and Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2010-0007-EA) (Beam Path EA; USDI 2011)

Other applicable documents:
Biological Opinion and Concurrence on the FY 2008-2013 Programmatic Suite of Activities Planned by the District and the Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 8, 2008. (FWS# 13420-2008-F-0118)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria.

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is not located at a site specifically identified in the Beam Path EA (USDI 2011). However, the purpose and need are identical as is the description of a communication site used by several entities; therefore, the design features and anticipated environmental consequences are essentially the same as those analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The EA contained analysis of removing vegetation obstructing broadcast signals.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The range of alternatives analyzed was appropriate with respect to the *Blue Ridge Communication Site Beam Path Maintenance and Fuels Reduction EA* project. The BLM considered a range of alternatives. The current environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Since the development of the Beam Path EA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued new proposed Critical Habitat designations for the northern spotted owl. While the designations are not finalized, these specific lands are not currently proposed as Critical Habitat. The most recent Special Status Species list was used when conducting surveys. No other changes have occurred that would invalidate the previous analysis.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Based on review by an interdisciplinary team (listed below), the anticipated direct and indirect effects of the proposed *Signal Tree Beam Path* project are essentially the same as identified in the Beam Path EA. The cumulative effects of implementing this action have been broadly discussed, particularly in terms of fuels reduction and vegetation.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The original EA had a 30-day comment period on the appropriateness of the FONSI. One comment was received; however, BLM specialists determined that the FONSI was still appropriate and it was signed on August 31, 2011. There were no protests of the subsequent two decisions.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Paul Rodriguez	Realty Specialist	Project Lead
Julia Jackson	Safety & Occ. Health Specialist	Hazardous Materials
Jim Kirkpatrick	Forester	Weeds/POC/Silviculture

Jim Heaney	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Stephanie Messerle	Fish Biologist	Fisheries
Tim Rodenkirk	Botanist	Botany
Stephan Samuels	District Archaeologist	Cultural/Environmental Justice
Dan Carpenter	District Hydrologist	Hydrology/Soils
Barry Hogge	Fuels Management Specialist	Fire/Fuels
Aimee Hoefs	Environmental Protection Specialist	NEPA

Note: Refer to the EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

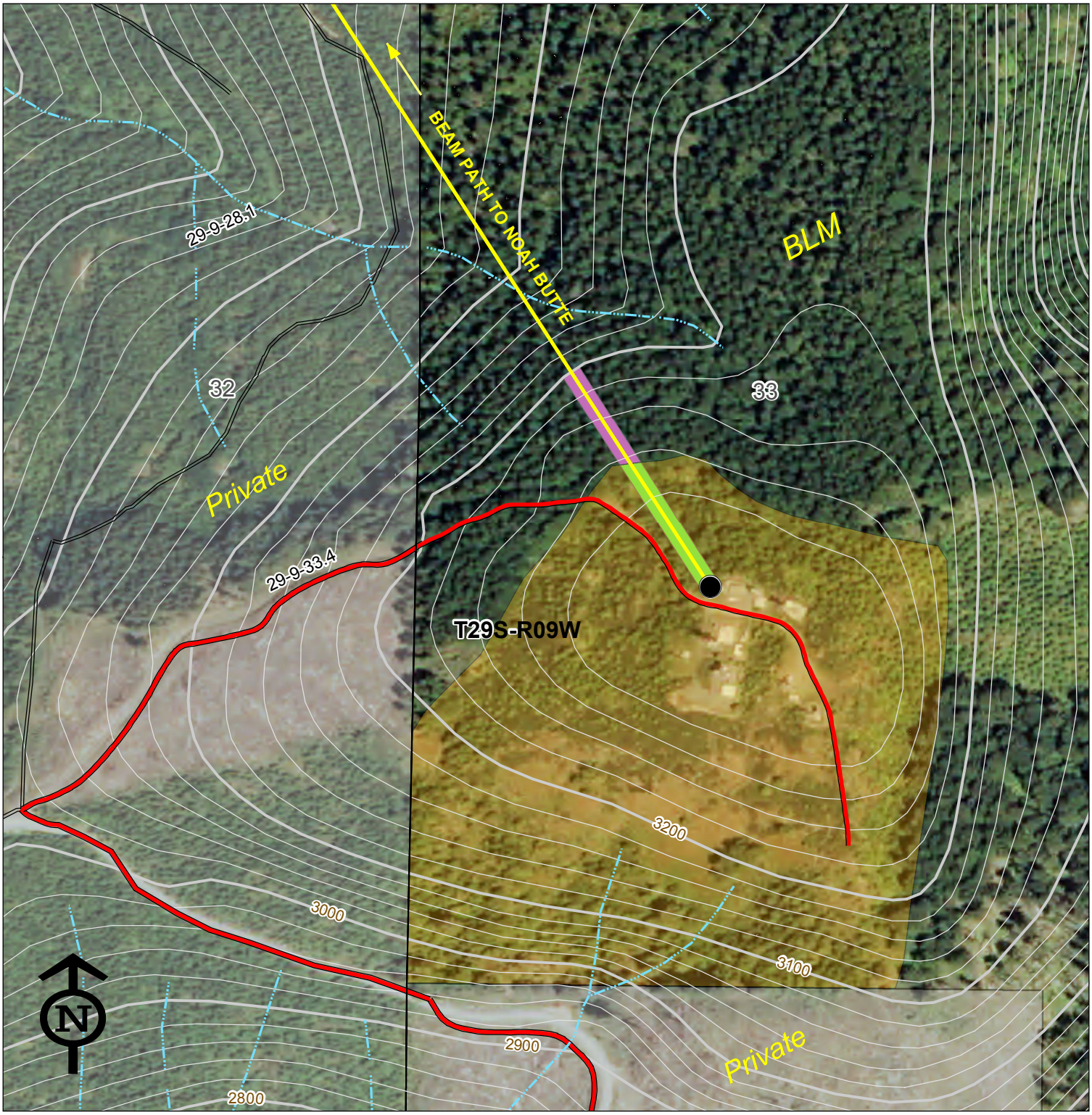
Conclusion: *(Note: If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.*)

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action. This documentation constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Signature of Project Lead *_/s/ Paul Rodriguez_*

Signature of NEPA Coordinator *_/s/ Aimee E.B. Hoefs_*

Signature of the Responsible Official: *_/s/ Kathy Hoffine_* Date: *_September 20, 2012_*



Map Features (Using 2011 NAIP Imagery in background)

- COBI Tower
- BLM Controlled Road
- Non-BLM Controlled Road
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- COBI Beam Path
- Matrix Clearing Limits
- Nonforest Clearing Limits
- Nonforest Area
- Non-BLM Administered Lands

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Feet

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Signal Tree Beam Path DNA T29S-R09W-Sec.33