

**United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District**

Categorical Exclusion Review (CX)

DOI-BLM-OR-120-2009-0001-CX

Date: October 8, 2008

A. Background

Project: Fiscal Year 2009 Road Maintenance

Location: Various locations throughout the Coos Bay District.

Project Description:

Annual, seasonal, monthly, weekly, and daily maintenance of nearly 2000 miles of BLM maintained logging roads. These roads are maintained by BLM maintenance crews and private contractors in conformance with the Western Oregon Transportation Plan. Routine maintenance activities and emergency repairs are needed to keep the road system functional and drainage systems operational. Routine maintenance is limited to:

- 1) Clearing landslides (i.e. rocks, dirt, and trees) that block routes and prevent road use or create a safety hazard.
- 2) Transfer of landslide materials to designated disposal areas and/or old landings and at disposal sites along roadsides if appropriate. Activities occurring within the riparian reserve must follow the applicable standards and guidelines for the riparian reserve land use allocation.
- 3) Buck and deck wind-thrown trees and slide debris along roadways.
- 3a) Vegetative waste piles generated from removal actions will be burned in fall/winter months (wet season). This action includes waste generated from recreation site maintenance activities.
- 4) Mechanical or manual (hand tools) control of vegetation along roadsides.
- 5) Maintaining road surfaces (i.e. grading, paving, patching, surfacing, etc.).
- 6) Replacement of grade culverts and other culverts at non-fish bearing stream-crossings up to 36" in diameter and emergency repairs (not replacements) of culverts at non-fish bearing stream-crossings up to 48" in diameter. Soil and road surfacing material removed will be piled on roadway to use as fill material around new culvert.
- 7) Installation of water bars.
- 8) Cleaning of drainage ditches.
- 9) Bridge maintenance as defined by Federal Highway Bridge Inspection Program to include keeping drainages, approaches, guardrails, and decks clear.
- 10) Sign maintenance.
- 11) Noxious weed control/treatment under the guidelines of the District Noxious Weed EA (EA OR120-97-11).

These actions are further limited to the existing road prism (top of cut-bank to toe of fill) except for shotgun culvert situations (to the extent of the drainage) and where slopes (both cut-bank and fill) need to be stabilized to protect the existing road prism from further degradation.

Individual high disturbance projects (noise levels well above ambient noise levels for a short duration or highly variable noises moderately above ambient noise levels) such as blasting or heavy equipment in a specific location for one week or more need to be reviewed for T&E wildlife concerns.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance Review: This project is tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI BLM 1994) and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended, (USDI BLM 1995) and 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 LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Develop and maintain a transportation system that serves the needs of users in an environmentally sound manner. Arterial and major collector roads will form the backbone of the transportation system in the planning area (page 69).

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM2, Appendix 1, §1.7:

Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity; e.g. limited size and magnitude or short-term effects.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation 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 516 DM 2 Appendix 2 apply.

A summary of the extraordinary circumstances is listed below. The action must have a significant or a disproportional adverse effect on the listed categories to warrant further analysis and environmental review.

<u>Extraordinary Circumstances</u>	<u>Applies</u> (Yes/No)	<u>Comments¹ and Source²</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>
(1) Health & Safety Hazardous Materials	No No	Reviewed by Hazardous Materials Coordinator;	<u>TG</u>	<u>11.05.08</u>
(2) Unique Resources	No	Reviewed by Port-Orford Cedar Coordinator	<u>JMA</u>	<u>11/5/08</u>
(3) Controversial Effects	No			
(4) Risks	No			
(5) Precedent	No			
(6) Cumulative	No			
(7) Cultural & Historic	No	Reviewed by Archaeologist	<u>225</u>	<u>11/5/08</u>
(8) T & E Species	No	Reviewed by Wildlife Biologists, Fisheries, and Botanist	<u>R</u> <u>J</u>	<u>11/7/08</u> <u>10.30.08</u>
(9) Violate Laws	No			
(10) Environmental Justice	No	Reviewed by Environmental Justice Coordinator	<u>225</u>	<u>11/5/08</u>
(11) Native American Religious Concerns	No	Reviewed by District Native American Coordinator	<u>225</u>	<u>11/5/08</u>
(12) Noxious Weeds	No	Reviewed by Noxious Weed Coordinator	<u>GA</u>	<u>10/24/08</u>

Indicate applicability if the exception.

List data source on which exception determination is based.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official:

District Manager: Mark E. Johnson Date: 11/6/08

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Steven Fowler; District Planning & Environmental Coordinator; Coos Bay District Office; 1300 Airport Lane; North Bend, OR 97459.

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Decision Record for Categorical Exclusion

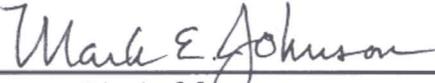
Decision:

It is my decision to implement routine maintenance on BLM roads as described in **DOI-BLM-OR-120-2009-001-CX**

Decision Rationale:

The proposed action has been reviewed by Resource Area Staff and appropriate project Design Features as specified will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Signature of Authorizing Official:



District Manager

Date: 11/6/08

Notice of the forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.