

## **Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for No Links Blowdown Salvage CE #OR115-08-40**

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### **Location of Proposed Action**

The proposed project is located northeast of the community of Butte Falls, Oregon in SW¼ of SE¼ of section 31, Township 35 South, Range 3 East, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

### **Description of Proposed Action**

A windstorm in January 2008 with hurricane force winds has blown down and/or loosened approximately 30 trees on BLM-administered lands. The proposal is to harvest blown down trees within 1.5 acres adjacent to the Butte Falls/Prospect Highway. Trees would be removed using existing skid roads; the longest skid distance would be approximately 200 feet.

### **Plan Conformance Review**

The Bureau of Land Management did not scope this proposal and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994)
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (PRMP/EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995)
- *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (ROD, 2007)
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985)

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990 (as amended), and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District Resource Management Plan that directs the BLM to “Provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects, or disease, consistent with management objectives for other resources” (USDI 1995, p. 72).

### **Project Design Features**

1. Skidder will operate on existing skid trails only.
2. Logs will be winched to the existing skid trails.

3. 120 linear feet (16" x 16') per acre of large, coarse woody debris will be left on-site.
4. Road and ditch line will be cleaned of slash and debris.
5. Slash will be lopped and scattered.

### **Categorical Exclusion Determination**

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.9 C(2). This section allows for “Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads.”

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the “extraordinary circumstances,” included in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, must be reviewed for applicability. After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect. The action will not require additional analysis.

### **Contact Person**

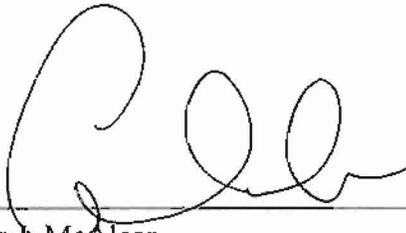
For additional information concerning this project, contact David Orban, Project Leader, at (541)618-2368.

**Decision**

It is my decision to harvest blown down trees within the 1.5 acres adjacent to the Butte Falls/Prospect Highway. Trees will be removed using existing skid trails.

**Decision Rationale**

The proposed action has been reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.



9/10/08

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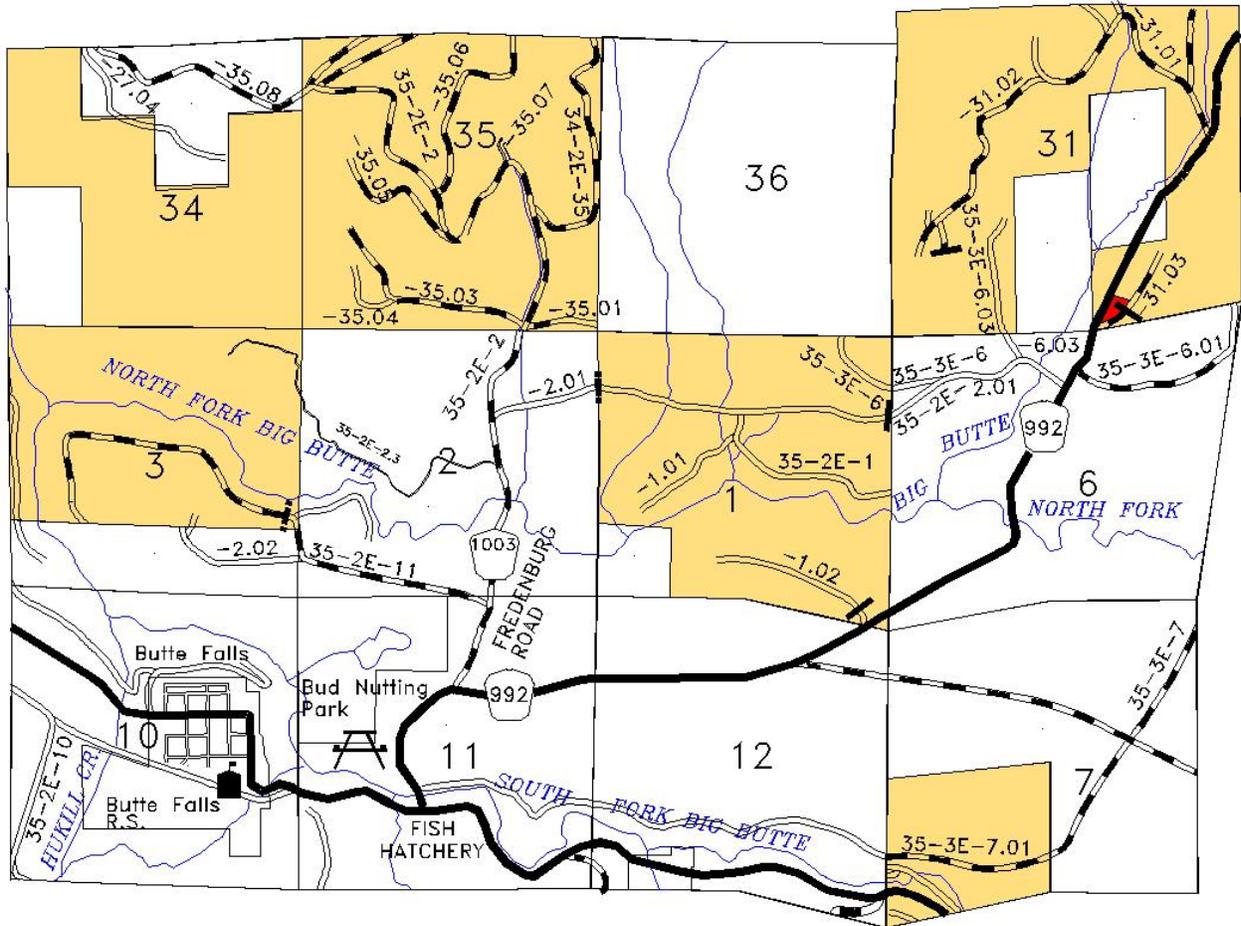
Christopher J. McAlear  
Field Manager  
Butte Falls Resource Area

Date

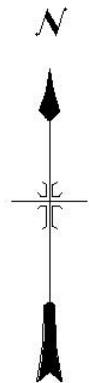
**Administrative Remedy**

Notice of 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.

# No Link T.S. Exhibit A T.34S.,R.3E,Sec.31swse



-  Paved Highway
-  Rocked Road
-  Natural Surface Road
-  Log/Dirt Barricade
-  Stream
-  Salvage Unit
-  BLM Managed Lands



### NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

**Proposed Action:**

To implement the removal and use of the blowdown trees as described in the Proposed Action.

Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

- 1. *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Yes  No

Initial QW Remarks:

- 2. *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; 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.*

Yes  No

Initial AS Remarks:

- 3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes  No

Initial QW Remarks:

- 4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

Yes  No

Initial QW Remarks:

- 5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Yes  No

Initial QW Remarks:

- 6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes  No

Initial SLS Remarks:

- 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.*

Yes  No

Initial AS Remarks:

- 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.*

Plants  Yes  No

Initial MW Remarks:

Animals  Yes  No Initial DR Remarks:

Fish  Yes  No Initial JZ Remarks:

9. *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

Yes  No

Initial OW Remarks:

10. *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

Yes  No

Initial OW Remarks:

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).*

Yes  No

Initial AS Remarks:

12. *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative 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).*

Yes  No

Initial MW Remarks:

**Reviewers:**

| Name                                  | Title                         | Date    | Initials |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Jean Williams                         | NEPA Coordinator              | 9/10/08 | JW       |
| Marcia Wineteer                       | Botanist                      | 9/8/08  | MW       |
| Dave Roelofs                          | Wildlife Biologist            | 8-11-08 | DR       |
| Steve Liebhardt                       | Fisheries Biologist           | 8/6/08  | SL       |
| Shawn Simpson                         | Hydrologist                   | 8/11/08 | SS       |
| Ken Van Etten                         | Soil Scientist                | 8/11/08 | KBV      |
| Jessica Buchanan                      | Fire/Fuels Specialist         | 8/7/08  | JBS      |
| <del>Amy Sobiech</del><br>John McNeel | Cultural Specialist           | 9/10/08 | AS       |
| Randy Bryan                           | Engineer                      | 8-6-08  | RRB      |
| Trish Lindaman                        | Outdoor Recreation Specialist | 8-6-08  | PLZ      |