

## **Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record For Pleasant Blowdown Road Salvage OR115-08-44**

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### **Location of Proposed Action**

Project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) system road #34-4-15 in Township 33 South, Range 4 West, Section 23, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

### **Description of Proposed Action**

Remove one tree blown down across BLM road #34-4-15 in the Pleasant Creek drainage.

This large diameter Douglas-fir blew down the winter of 2007/2008. The tree was recently cut out of the road to facilitate the removal of a private vehicle.

### **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” and to “Provide for the safety of forest users (including removing hazard trees along roads and trails, in campgrounds, and administrative sites, etc.)” (USDI 1995, p. 72).

## **Project Design Features**

1. Slash will be lopped and scattered, as determined by the sale administrator.
2. Purchaser will be required to meet current state fire regulations.
3. Only one blown down tree blue painted above and below stump height will be removed.
4. Road surfaces, ditches, and culvert catch basins will be cleaned of slash and debris.
5. Equipment, tools, and gear will be cleaned of dirt, mud, and plant parts before entering BLM-managed lands.
6. Motorized equipment will not leave the road prism.

## **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 Categorical Exclusion, contact David Orban, Project Leader, at (541)618-2368.

**Decision**

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. It is my decision to implement the removal and sale of blown down tree as described above.

**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.



9/17/08

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Christopher J. McAlear  
Field Manager  
Butte Falls Resource Area

Date

**Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is effective upon signing by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect pending any protest. 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.



### NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

**Proposed Action:** Remove one tree blown down across BLM road #34-4-15 in the Pleasant Creek drainage.

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 OW 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 OW Remarks:

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

Yes  No

Initial OW 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 OW 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 SL 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 JW Remarks:

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

Yes  No

Initial JW 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 JW Remarks:

**Reviewers:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	9/15/08	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	9/8/08	mw
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Biologist	8/20/08	DR
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	8/20/08	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	8/20/08	SLS
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	8/20/08	KBV
Jessica Buchanan	Fire/Fuels Specialist	8/21/08	JSB
Amy Sobiech	Cultural Resource Specialist	9/10/08	AS
Randy Bryan	Engineer	8-26-08	RQB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	9/15/08	TL