

## **Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for PacifiCorp Electrical Line Reauthorization, OR 65387 DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2009-0021-CX**

### **Description of Proposed Action:**

The proposed project is to reauthorize a right-of-way to PacifiCorp for an existing 12 kilovolt overhead electrical distribution line located on BLM-administered lands along West Fork Trail Creek Road near Trail, Oregon. This line was formerly authorized as ORE 0107 and will be issued under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, Title V, 90 Stat. 2743 as serial number OR 65387. This authorization would be in effect until December 31, 2050. The right-of-way area is 25.0 feet wide, 5,654 feet long and contains approximately 3.25 acres. Refer to the attached route map. This project is located as follows: SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> section 19, and NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 29, Township 33 South, Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

### **Plan Conformance Review**

This proposal was not scoped and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the western Oregon Bureau of Land Management and Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan for the Medford District* (EIS, 2008 and ROD/RMP, 2008);
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment* (1998) and tiered to the *Final-Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Environmental Impact Statement* (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 (USDI 2008, p. 41) that directs the BLM to “Provide needed rights-of-way, permits, leases, and easements over BLM-administered lands in a manner that is consistent with federal and state laws” (USDI 2008, p. 49).

### **Project Design Features**

- The holder shall clean motorized vehicles which will be driven off system roads, including tires and undercarriages to remove noxious weed plant parts and seeds to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

See attached Right-of-Way Grant (Form 2800-14) for Terms and Conditions that apply to this authorization and PacifiCorp's "Overview of Operation and Maintenance Activities for Electric Transmission and Distribution Lines (Power Lines)," dated February 2007.

**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, E (9) and E (11) which allows for

- "Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations" and
- "Conversion of existing right-of-way grants to Title V grants or existing leases to FLPMA Section 302(b) leases where no new facilities or other changes are needed."

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the "extraordinary circumstances," included in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 43 CFR 46.205(c) 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 Leslie Voelkel, Realty Specialist, at (541) 618-2217.

**Prepared by:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leslie Voelkel,  
 Lands and Realty Specialist

3-24-09  
 Date

**NEPA Compliance:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jean Williams  
 Butte Falls Resource Area Environmental Specialist

3-24-09  
 Date

**Decision**

It is my decision to authorize a right-of-way grant to PacifiCorp for an existing 12 kilovolt overhead electrical distribution line, as described in the Proposed Action section of this document. The serial number attached to this authorization is OR 65387. The right-of-way grant is valid until December 31, 2050.

**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 environment and no further environmental analysis is required.



Donald K. Hoffheins  
Field Manager  
Butte Falls Resource Area

3/24/09  
Date

## Administrative Remedies

In accordance with BLM's Rights of Way regulations (see 43 CFR § 2801.10), administrative review of right-of-way decisions requiring National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment will be available under 43 CFR Part 4 to those who have a "legally cognizable interest" to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized would cause injury, and who have established themselves as a "party to the case" (see 43 CFR § 4.410). Other than the applicant for the right-of-way, in order to be considered a "party to the case" the person claiming to be adversely affected by the decision must show that they have notified the BLM of their alleged injury through their participation in the decision making process (see 43 CFR § 4.410(b) and (c)). The latest date that any affected parties received the Notice of Decision will establish the date initiating a 30 day appeal period.

## Effective Date of Decision

This is a land decision on a right-of-way application. **All BLM decisions under 43 CFR Part 2800 remain in effect pending an appeal** (see 43 CFR § 2801.10) unless the Secretary rules otherwise. Rights-of-Way decisions that remain in effect pending an appeal are considered as "in full force and effective immediately" upon issuance of a decision. Thus, this decision is now in effect.

## Right of Appeal

This decision may be appealed to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board) by those who have a "legally cognizable interest" to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized in this decision would cause injury, and who have established themselves as a "party to the case" (see 43 CFR § 4.410). If an appeal is taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed with the BLM officer who made the decision in this office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) not more than 30 days after this decision is approved (or the date the affected parties received notice of the decision). Only signed hard copies of a notice of appeal that are delivered to the BLM Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504 will be accepted. Faxed or emailed appeals will not be considered.

In addition to the applicant, anyone who has participated in the NEPA process for this project will qualify as party to the case (see 43 CFR § 4.410(b)). However, in order to qualify as an appellant, a "party to the case," you also have the burden of showing possession of a "legally cognizable interest" that has a substantial likelihood of injury from the decision (see 43 CFR § 4.410(d)).

The person signing the notice of appeal has the responsibility of proving eligibility to represent the appellant before the Board under its regulations at 43 CFR § 1.3. The appellant also has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. The appeal must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being appealed and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error. If your notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed.

According to 43 CFR Part 4, you have the right to petition the Board to stay the implementation of the decision. Should you choose to file one, your stay request should accompany your notice of appeal. You must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision.

A petition for stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

A notice of appeal with petition for stay must be served upon the Board, the Regional Solicitor and PacifiCorp at the same time such documents are served on the deciding official at this office. Service must be accomplished within fifteen (15) days after filing in order to be in compliance with appeal regulations (see 43 CFR § 4.413(a)). At the end of your notice of appeal you must sign a certification that service has been or will be made in accordance with the applicable rules (e.g., 43 CFR §§ 4.410(c) and 4.413) and specify the date and manner of such service.

The IBLA will review any petition for a stay and may grant or deny the stay. If the IBLA takes no action on the stay request within 45 days of the expiration of the time for filing a notice of appeal, you may deem the request for stay as denied, and the BLM decision will remain in full force and effect until IBLA makes a final ruling on the case.

### **Contact Information**

For additional information, contact Donald Hoffheins, Field Manager, Butte Falls Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, or telephone 541-618-2200. Additional contact addresses include:

- U.S. Dept of the Interior,  
Office of Hearings and Appeals  
Interior Board of Land Appeals  
801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC  
Arlington, VA 22203
- Regional Solicitor  
Pacific Northwest Region, USDI  
805 SE Broadway, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97205
- PacifiCorp  
825 NE Multnomah St, Suite 1700  
Portland, OR 97232

Form 1842-1  
(September 2006)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS**

**DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS**

1. This decision is adverse to you,
- AND
2. You believe it is incorrect

**IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. NOTICE OF APPEAL</b> ..... | A person who wishes to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals must file in the office of the officer who made the decision (not the Interior Board of Land Appeals) a notice that he wishes to appeal. A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> in time for it to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service. If a decision is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a person not served with the decision must transmit a <i>Notice of Appeal</i> in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413).  |
| <b>2. WHERE TO FILE</b>          |  |
| NOTICE OF APPEAL.....            | U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management<br>Medford District Office<br>3040 Biddle Road<br>Medford, OR 97504   |
| WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR...        | U.S. Department of the Interior<br>Office of the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region<br>805 S.W. Broadway, Suite 600<br>Portland, OR 97205  |
| <b>3. STATEMENT OF REASONS</b>   |  |
| WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR.....      | Within 30 days after filing the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> , file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> , no additional statement is necessary (43 CFR 4.412 and 4.413).<br><br>U.S. Department of the Interior<br>Office of the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region<br>805 S.W. Broadway, Suite 600<br>Portland, OR 9720  |
| <b>4. ADVERSE PARTIES</b> .....  |  |
|                                  | Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> , (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (43 CFR 4.413).  |
| <b>5. PROOF OF SERVICE</b> ..... |  |
|                                  | Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (43 CFR 4.401(c)).   |
| <b>6. REQUEST FOR STAY</b> ..... |  |
|                                  | Except where program-specific regulations place this decision in full force and effect or provide for an automatic stay, the decision becomes effective upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing an appeal unless a petition for a stay is timely filed together with a <i>Notice of Appeal</i> (43 CFR 4.21). If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your <i>Notice of Appeal</i> (43 CFR 4.21 or 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> and Petition for a Stay <b>must</b> also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.<br><br><b>Standards for Obtaining a Stay.</b> Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay. |

Unless these procedures are followed, your appeal will be subject to dismissal (43 CFR 4.402). Be certain that **all** communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

**NOTE:** A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (43 CFR 4.401(a)). See 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart B for general rules relating to procedures and practice involving appeals.

(Continued on page 2)

**43 CFR SUBPART 1821--GENERAL INFORMATION**

Sec. 1821.10 Where are BLM offices located? (a) In addition to the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. and seven national level support and service centers, BLM operates 12 State Offices each having several subsidiary offices called Field Offices. The addresses of the State Offices can be found in the most recent edition of 43 CFR 1821.10. The State Office geographical areas of jurisdiction are as follows:

STATE OFFICES AND AREAS OF JURISDICTION:

Alaska State Office ----- Alaska  
Arizona State Office ----- Arizona  
California State Office ----- California  
Colorado State Office ----- Colorado  
Eastern States Office ----- Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri  
and, all States east of the Mississippi River  
Idaho State Office ----- Idaho  
Montana State Office ----- Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota  
Nevada State Office ----- Nevada  
New Mexico State Office ---- New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas  
Oregon State Office ----- Oregon and Washington  
Utah State Office ----- Utah  
Wyoming State Office ----- Wyoming and Nebraska

(b) A list of the names, addresses, and geographical areas of jurisdiction of all Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management can be obtained at the above addresses or any office of the Bureau of Land Management, including the Washington Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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(Form 1842-1, September 2006)

**Proposed Action:** Reauthorize a PacifiCorp right-of-way for an existing 12 kilovolt overhead electrical distribution line located on BLM-administered lands along West Fork Trail Creek Road near Trail, Oregon. The right-of-way area is 25.0 feet wide, 5,654 feet long, and contains approximately 3.25 acres.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) 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 resources; 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 AK 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 SS Remarks:

7. *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.*

Yes  No

Initial AK Remarks: CRM Report #OR 110-09-33

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 OR 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 JW 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:

I have reviewed the proposed action in accordance with the above criteria and have determined the proposed action would not involve any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed action does not meet any of the criteria for exception and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E (9) and E (11).

Jean A. Williams  
Butte Falls Resource Area NEPA Coordinator

3-24-09  
Date

DK [Signature]  
Butte Falls Field Manager

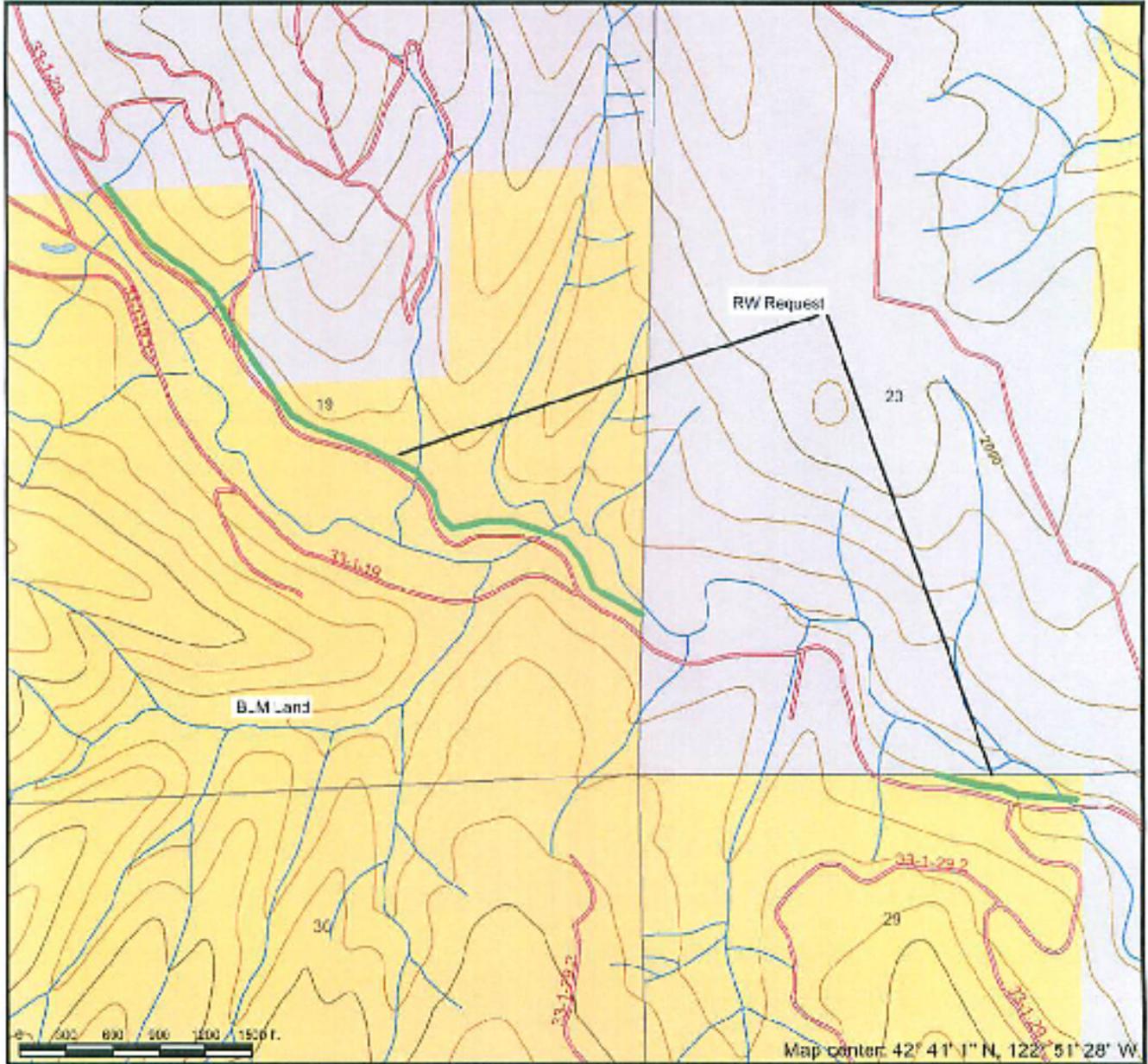
3/24/09  
Date

**Categorical Exclusion Reviewers:**

| <b>Name</b>     | <b>Title</b>               | <b>Date</b> | <b>Initials</b> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Jean Williams   | NEPA Coordinator           | 3/24/09     | JW              |
| Marcia Wineteer | Botanist                   | 3/24/09     | mw              |
| Dave Roelofs    | Wildlife Biologist         | 3/13/09     | DR              |
| Steve Liebhardt | Fisheries Biologist        | 3/12/09     | SL              |
| Shawn Simpson   | Hydrologist                | 3/19/09     | SLS             |
| Ken VanEtten    | Soil Scientist             | 3/19/09     | KV.             |
| Al Mason        | Fire/Fuels Specialist      | 3/11/09     | APM             |
| Ann Ramage      | District Archaeologist     | 3-12-09     | AR              |
| Trish Lindaman  | Outdoor Recreation Planner | 3-13-09     | TL              |
| Randy Bryan     | Engineering                | 3-13-09     | RRB             |

# Pacificorp - OR 065387

## T33S- R1W Sec19



- |                             |          |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Forest Operations Inventory | Non BLM  | Highways |
| TPCC                        | Lakes    | Roads    |
| Township and Range          | Streams  | Trails   |
| Sections                    | Wetlands |          |



Internal Use Only



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Medford District Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, OR 97504

Printed: Jul 15, 2008 7:33:02 AM  
[http://web.maps.or.blm.gov/foi\\_section](http://web.maps.or.blm.gov/foi_section)

**Scale 1:12,000**  
Universal Transverse Mercator  
Zone 10, North American Datum of 1983

