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

Categorical Exclusion Review (CX)

DOI-BLM-OR-C000-2010-0003-CX
Date: 09/21/09

A. Background

Project: **Fiscal Year 2010 Tailhold and Guyline requests**

Location: Various locations throughout the Coos Bay District.

Project Description:

Use of tailhold and guyline trees to facilitate logging operations is a common occurrence throughout this region. The topography and terrain dictate the location where the use of these trees is most beneficial. The checkerboard ownership pattern often necessitates that an adjacent landowner must utilize trees on neighboring BLM lands. Use of tailholds on BLM will allow the operator to achieve better log suspension thereby reducing impacts to soil and watershed resources in the harvest area. Guyline trees are required for the safe operation of the yarding equipment. This CX pertains to requests from adjacent landowners that are not currently authorized through Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements. A copy of the permission notification will be kept with this annual CX file.

Seasonal restrictions may be required to minimize impacts to T&E species, as outlined in the current Biological Opinion. In addition, large, old-growth trees with potential nest structures (cavities, broken tops, large limbs, epicormic branch platforms, multiple stems) will not be used.

Trees within Late-Successional or Riparian Reserves required to be felled for safety would be left on-site, unless needed to be moved for safety or operational reasons.

Use of tree protection devices would be required; however, trees may be damaged on occasion as a result of bark or skyline slip resulting in partially girdled trees. Trees that are partially girdled, which may die within a few years, would remain on site to provide snag or coarse woody habitat for wildlife.

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 it's *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):

Continue to make BLM-administered lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with local comprehensive plans (page 65).

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 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.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Applies (Yes/No)	Comments[1] and Source[2]		
(1) Health & Safety	No			
Hazardous Materials	No	Reviewed by Hazardous Materials Coordinator;	WJG	10/02/09
(2) Unique Resources	No	Reviewed by Port-Orford Cedar Coordinator	RS	9/22/09
(3) Controversial Effects	No			
(4) Risks	No			
(5) Precedent	No			
(6) Cumulative	No			
(7) Cultural & Historic	No	Reviewed by Archaeologist	SAS	9.24.09
(8) T & E Species	No	Reviewed by Wildlife Biologists,	KP	9/22/09
		Fisheries, and	BH	11/02/09
		Botanist	JR	10/5/09
(9) Violate Laws	No			
(10) Environmental Justice	No	Reviewed by Environmental Justice Coordinator	SAS	9.24.09
(11) Native American Religious Concerns	No	Reviewed by District Native American Coordinator	SAS	9.24.09
(12) Noxious Weeds	No	Reviewed by Noxious Weed Coordinator	JMS	9/28/09

1 Indicate applicability if the exception.

2 List data source on which exception determination is based.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: District Manager: Mark E. Johnson Date: 11/3/09

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 allow non-reciprocal right-of-way permittees to use BLM lands to facilitate their harvest operations as described in **DOI-BLM-OR-C000-2010-0003-CX.**

Decision Rationale:

I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion Documentation, including the plan conformance, NEPA compliance review, and extraordinary circumstances review, and have determined that the action involves no significant impact to the human environment and that no further analysis is required.

Signature of Authorizing Official:

/s/ Mark Johnson Date: ***11/03/09***

District Manager

Administrative Remedies:

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.