

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

Categorical Exclusion Review (CX)

DOI-BLM-OR-120-2010-0005-CX

Date: 09/21/09

A. Background

Project: Fiscal Year 2010 Removal of Hazard Trees and Roadway Salvage

Location: Established recreation sites, areas, and trails and various locations adjacent to roads on BLM managed lands throughout the Coos Bay District.

Project Description:

The project entails removal and disposal of hazard trees from established recreational sites, areas, or trails. Trees within recreation sites would be disposed in a variety of ways, from being sold to contractors, cut into firewood for campers, or remain on-site for wildlife purposes.

In addition, trees identified as hazards adjacent to roadways, blocking roads, or interfering with normal road maintenance activities would be removed in accordance with Coos Bay Instruction Memorandum OR120-2007-03. Sale of trees would be limited to less than 50 mbf.

The District utilizes the definitions put forth in *Long-Range Planning for Developed Sites in the Pacific Northwest: The Context of Hazard Tree Management* (USDA FS, PNW Region, 1992) for what constitutes a human safety hazard and hazardous trees.

Specific design criteria include noxious weed control/treatment under the guidelines of the District Noxious Weed EA (EA OR120-97-11). Applicable Standard operating Procedures to prevent weed spread would be implemented; refer to District weed Prevention Schedule.

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 applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Manage timber within developed or proposed recreation sites/areas for purpose[-] of removing hazard trees.... (page 49).

Manage for the production and sale of special forest products (SFPs) when demand is present and where actions taken are consistent with primary objectives for the land use plan (page 55).

Provide opportunities for firewood cutting along roadsides where trees are obstructing sight distance, are a safety hazard, or are creating road maintenance problems (page 55).

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11 §11.9 C(2):

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.

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 Circwnstances</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>HPG</u>	<u>10/02/09</u>
(2) Unique Resources	No	Reviewed by Port-Orford Cedar Coordinator	<u>RS</u>	<u>9/22/09</u>
(3) Controversial Effects	No			
(4) Risks	No			
(5) Precedent	No			
(6) Cumulative	No			
(7) Cultural & Historic	No	Reviewed by Archaeologist	<u>SRS</u>	<u>9.29.09</u>
(8) T & E Species	No	Reviewed by Wildlife Biologists, Fisheries, and Botanist	<u>KP</u> <u>BW</u> <u>JK</u>	<u>9/22/09</u> <u>11/02/09</u> <u>10/3/09</u>
(9) Violate Laws	No			
(10) Environmental Justice	No	Reviewed by Environmental Justice Coordinator	<u>SRS</u>	<u>9.29.09</u>
(11) Native American Religious Concerns	No	Reviewed by District Native American Coordinator	<u>SRS</u>	<u>9.29.09</u>
(12) Noxious Weeds	No	Reviewed by Noxious Weed Coordinator	<u>MUS</u>	<u>9/29/09</u>

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.