

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

Categorical Exclusion Review (CX)

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2009-0011-CX

Date: August 20, 2009

A. Background

Project: District Progeny Test Sites and Fairview Project Area Fence Removal and Disposal

Location:

Umpqua Field Office - Devils Club-T20S, R08W, Sec 27,28 ; **Smith River**-T20S, R09W, Sec 25; **Halfway**-T21S, R08W, Sec(s)1,12, **Vincent Creek** -T21S, R09W, Sec(s) 2,11; **Camp Creek**-T23S, R08W, Sec 33; **Lindy Bridge**-T23S, R09W, Sec 13; **John's Peak**-T23S, R09W, Sec 27; **Elk Run**-T26S, R10W, Sec(s) 8,17;

Myrtlewood Field Office - Skyline-T27S, R09W, Sec(s) 19,30; **Joe Columbo**-T27S, R09W, Sec 29; **Brewster Rock**-T27S, R10W, Sec 29; **Camas Creek**- T28S, R09W, Sec15; **Russell Eckley**-T30S, R12W, Sec 29; **White Mtn**-T31S, R14W, Sec 17; **Lobster Creek**- T35S,R13W, Sec 20; **Northern Prairie**-T39S, R13W, Sec 13; **Black Mound**-T40S, R13W, Sec 20

Fairview Project -T27S, R12W, Sec(s) 15, 19, 23, & 27

Project Description:

A portion of the project sites are existing 1st generation progeny plantations (20 to 38 years old) which were fenced to protect planted test trees from wildlife browse and damage. These sites are no longer in danger from wildlife browse or damage. The project consists of removal of all fence material used in the construction of the big game wildlife fence surrounding the progeny test sites. There is estimated 15 miles of fence to be removed from the combined resource area progeny test sites. In addition there will be approximately 12 miles of livestock fence removed in the Fairview Project Area along BLM property boundaries.

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* (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 consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

“...to eliminate impacts associated with habitat manipulation, poaching, and other activities that threaten the continued existence and distribution of native wildlife inhabiting federal lands (p. 27).”

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 11.9 A. (1):

Modification of existing fences to provide improved wildlife ingress and egress.

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 Circumstances</u>	<u>Applies</u> (Yes/No)	<u>Comments¹ and Source²</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>
(1) Health & Safety	No			
Hazardous Materials	No	Reviewed by Hazardous Materials Coordinator;	<u>pey</u>	<u>03/24/09</u>
(2) Unique Resources	No	Reviewed by Port-Orford Cedar Coordinator	<u>~</u>	<u>09/03/09</u>
(3) Controversial Effects	No			
(4) Risks	No			
(5) Precedent	No			
(6) Cumulative	No			
(7) Cultural & Historic	No	Reviewed by Archaeologist <i>see attached</i>	<u>SRS</u>	<u>8-24-09</u>
(8) T & E Species	No	Reviewed by Wildlife Biologists, <i>see comment</i> Fisheries, and Botanist	<u>JTC</u> <u>SA</u> <u>JS</u>	<u>8/31/09</u> <u>8/27/09</u> <u>9-14-09</u>
(9) Violate Laws	No			
(10) Environmental Justice	No	Reviewed by Environmental Justice Coordinator	<u>SRS</u>	<u>8.24.09</u>
(11) Native American Religious Concerns	No	Reviewed by District Native American Coordinator	<u>SRS</u>	<u>8.24.09</u>
(12) Noxious Weeds	No	Reviewed by Noxious Weed Coordinator	<u>MJS</u>	<u>9/16/09</u>

D. Signature

Authorizing Official:

District Manager:

Mark E. Johnson

Date:

9/18/09

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact: Eva Bailey- Forester at 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR, 97459 or (541) 756-0100.

¹ Indicate applicability if the exception.

² List data source on which exception determination is based.