

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for T36S, R2E, Section 2 Blowdown Removal OR115-08-15

Description of Proposed Action

A landowner with property adjacent to BLM lands requested to remove 39 trees blown down during a recent wind storm. The blown down trees originating from public lands are lying on top of trees belonging to the adjacent landowner. The landowner has requested the trees originating from public lands be removed to facilitate the removal of his timber.

The project is located on matrix lands in the northwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of section 2, Township 36 South, Range 2 East, 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 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* (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* (USDI 2007); and
- *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 “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 allocation” (USDI 1995, 75).

Categorical Exclusion Determination

The 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.

Project Design Features

1. Equipment will not operate on BLM managed lands.
2. Logs will be winched/lined to the adjacent landowner’s property.
3. Sufficient large down coarse woody debris will be left on site.
4. Road and ditch will be cleaned of slash and debris.

5. Lop and scatter slash.
6. Tracked machinery will not operate on BLM road #36-2E-7.
7. BLM road #36-2E-7 will not be blocked for more than 15 minutes.
8. Survey monuments will be protected.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact Dave Orban, Project Leader, at (541) 944-0112.

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 39 blown down trees.

Decision Rationale

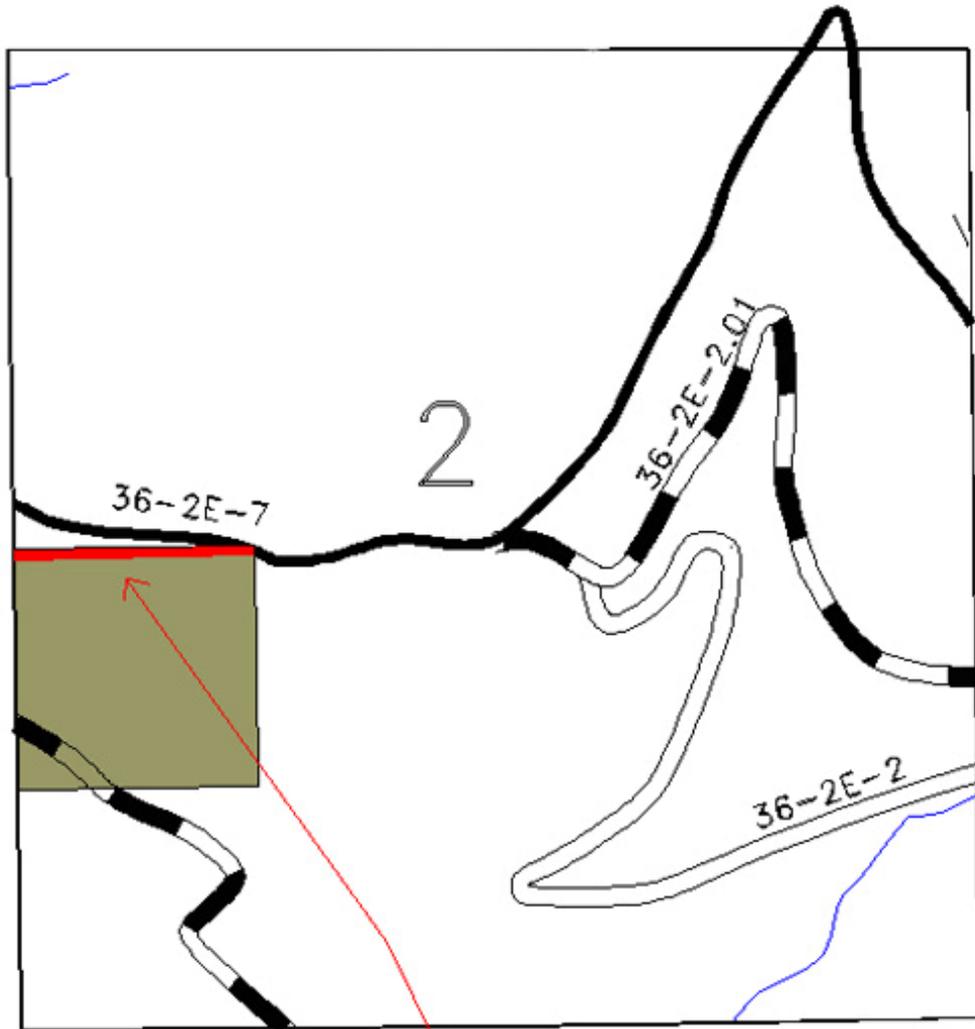
The decision is to implement the proposed action of removing and using 39 blown down trees. The proposed action has been reviewed by the Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features will be incorporated into the proposal as specified above.

for Douglas C Lindsay Acting FM 04/14/2008
Christopher J. McAlear Date
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

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.

T36S, R2E, Section 2 Blowdown Salvage



Blowdown Salvage Area

-  Paved Highway
-  Rocked Road
-  Natural Surface Road
-  Log/Dirt Barricade
-  Gate
-  Stream
-  Salvage Area



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action: Removing and using 39 blown down trees.

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 RW 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 RW 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 RW Remarks:

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

Yes No

Initial RW 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 RW 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 JCM 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 NW Remarks:

*outside Tritillaria gentneri range,
no equipment off road*

Animals Yes No Initial LA Remarks:

Fish Yes No Initial SK Remarks:

No RR.

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Yes No

Initial RW Remarks:

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

Yes No

Initial RW 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 JCM 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 nw Remarks:

Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Robyn Wicks	NEPA Coordinator	4/14/08	RW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	4/9/08	nw
Linda Hale	Wildlife Biologist	4/9/08	LH
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	4/8/08	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	4/9/08	SLS
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	4/9/08	XBU
Leanne Mruzik	Fire/Fuels Specialist	4/11/08	Am
John McNeel	Cultural Technician	4/9/08	JCM
Randy Bryan	Engineer	4/14/08	RRB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	4/14/08	PL

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