# Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for Round Top Firewood Harvest Area CE #OR115-09-01

## Location of Proposed Action

The proposed project is located north of the community of Gold Hill, Oregon on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roads 33-2-32.1 and 33-2-19.1 in N½ of NW¼, SE¼ of NW¼, E½ of SW¼ section 19, Township 33 South, Range 2 West and BLM roads 33-2-32.1 and 33-3-13.5 in N½ of NE¼, SE¼ of NE¼, W½ of SE¼ section 13, Township 33 South, Range 3 West, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

## Description of Proposed Action

Snow, wind, and rain during the winter of 2007-2008 felled trees that have blocked approximately 3 miles of road on BLM-administered lands. The BLM proposes to authorize the harvest of small diameter windthrown trees (madrone, chinquapin, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir) which are lying in the road or within lining/winching (200') distance of the road. Trees would be removed using existing roads; motorized vehicle would not leave the road surface.

## Plan Conformance Review

The BLM did not scope this proposal 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* (PRMP/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* (ROD, 2007)
- *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, p. 75).

## Project Design Features

1. Motor vehicles will stay on existing road surface.
2. Logs winched/lined will be within 200 feet of the existing road.
3. Road and ditch line will be cleaned of slash and debris.
4. Slash will be lopped and scattered.
5. No operations will occur from March 1 to June 30.
6. No operations will occur during periods of rain.
7. No harvest will occur within 150 feet of streams.
8. No harvest will occur outside the road prism within the owl core.

## 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 C(5). This section allows for "Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds, and personal use firewood."

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.

### Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact David Orban, Project Leader, at (541) 618-2368.

## Decision

It is my decision to allow the harvest of firewood as shown on the attached project area map. Firewood will be removed using existing roads only.

## Decision Rationale

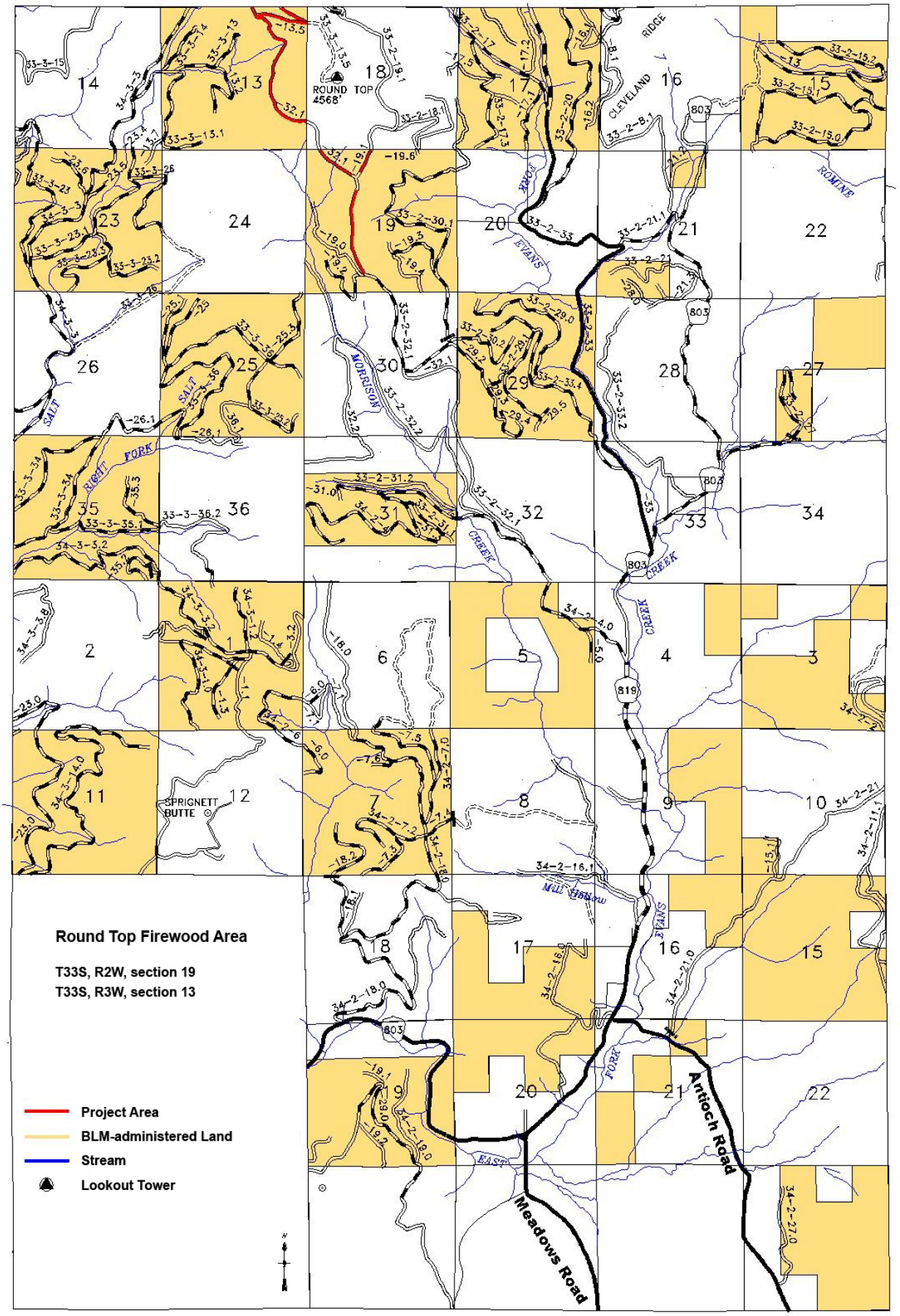
The proposed action has been reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

David J. Hughes 10/29/08

David J. Hughes Date
**Acting Field Manager**
**Butte Falls Resource Area**

## Administrative Remedy

Notice of 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.


Round Top Firewood Area
T33S, R2W, section 19
T33S, R3W, section 13
Project Area
BLM-administered Land
Stream
Lookout Tower
ROUND TOP 4568'
SPRIGNETT BUTTE
Meadows Road
Antioch Road
SALT
RIGHT FORK
MORRISON
EVANS
CREEK
ROMINE
CLEVELAND RIDGE

## NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

**Proposed Action:**

To implement the removal and use of the blowdown trees as described in the Proposed Action.

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 JCM Remarks: With excluded area removed from the project. JCM

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 SS 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 MW Remarks:

   Animals ☐ Yes ☒ No Initial DR Remarks:

   Fish ☐ Yes ☒ No Initial LL Remarks: RR would not have wood remove

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 MW Remarks:

**Reviewers:**

| Name | Title | Date | Initials |
|---|---|---|---|
| ~~Jean Williams~~ Robyn Wicks | NEPA Coordinator | 10/28/08 | RW |
| Marcia Wineteer | Botanist | 10/27/08 | mw |
| Dave Roelofs | Wildlife Biologist | 10/27/08 | DR |
| Steve Liebhardt | Fisheries Biologist | 10/20/08 | SL |
| Shawn Simpson | Hydrologist | 10/22/08 | SLS |
| Ken Van Etten | Soil Scientist | 10/22/08 | KBV |
| Jessica Buchanan | Fire/Fuels Specialist | 10/20/08 | ~~JBB~~ |
| John McNeel | Cultural Specialist | 10/23/08 | TCM |
| Randy Bryan | Engineer | 10/21/08 | RRB |
| Trish Lindaman | Outdoor Recreation Specialist | 10/20/08 | PAL |