

Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Decision Record for Burl Picken

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0018-CX

Description of Proposed Action

The Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to harvest 50 madrone burls using ground-based winch and helicopter lining removal techniques. The harvest of this specialty product would not require the development of new roads or landings and all ground-based equipment would be restricted to existing roads. No skid trails, new or existing, would be used. The removal of each burl would cause approximately 0.1 acre of ground disturbance (total of 5 acres). Depressions formed by the removal of the burl would be filled with slash and other forest debris.

The project is proposed on BLM-administered lands in the following locations (Table 1):

Table 1. Locations for Proposed Burl Removal				
Legal Description	Fifth Field Watershed	Land Use Allocation	Number of Burls	Map Number
T.32S., R.1W., Section 31 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	Trail Creek	Connectivity Block	1	1
T.32S., R.1W., Section 33 W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Trail Creek	Matrix	4	2
T.33S., R.1W., Section 5 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	Trail Creek	Matrix	1	3
T.33S., R.1W., Section 7 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Trail Creek	Matrix	8	3
T.33S., R.1W., Section 9 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Trail Creek	Matrix	3	4
T.33S., R.2W., Section 1 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Trail Creek	Matrix	1	5
T.34S., R.2W., Section 7 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	Evans Creek	Matrix	11	6
T.34S., R.3W., Section 17 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Evans Creek	Connectivity Block	20	7
T.34S., R.3W., Section 21 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	Evans Creek	Matrix	1	8

Land Use Plan Conformance

The Bureau of Land Management did not scope this proposal and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is in conformance with objectives, land use allocations, and management direction of the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) and any plan amendments in effect at the time this document is published.

This project also conforms with the 1994 *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)

The proposed action was designed to be consistent 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 1995 ROD/RMP 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 use allocation* (1995 ROD/RMP, p. 75).
- *Use the principles of ecosystem management to guide the management and harvest of special forest products* (1995 ROD/RMP, p. 75).
- *Allow harvest of SFPs throughout the district, but apply area and plant species/group restrictions as specified below* (see list of area and plant species/group restrictions in 1995 ROD/RMP, p. 76).

Project Design Features

- Tree boles will be left on site for use as coarse down woody debris.
- Tree crowns will be lopped and scattered.
- Root ball depressions will be filled with available rock, soil, and slash.
- Aerial operations will be restricted to an operating time of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- Burls will be lifted vertically to a height above the adjacent leave trees without horizontal movement.
- Operations will not occur during periods of rain.
- Trees will be limbed prior to falling or directionally felled to protect reserved vegetation.
- Any plant bulbs uncovered during harvest activities will be replanted.

- Operations will cease between March 1 and September 30, both days inclusive, when working adjacent to northern spotted owl activity centers.
- Ground-based vehicles will not be operated off existing roads on BLM-managed lands.

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, C (7), which allows for:

Harvesting live trees not to exceed 70 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 mile of temporary road construction. Such activities:

- a. Shall not include even-aged regeneration harvests or vegetation type conversions.
- b. May include incidental removal of trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing.
- c. May include temporary roads which are defined as roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the BLM transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. Temporary roads shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources; and
- d. Shall require the treatment of temporary roads constructed or used so as to permit the reestablishment by artificial or natural means, or vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Removing individual trees for sawlogs, specialty products, or fuelwood.
- b. Commercial thinning of overstocked stands to achieve the desired stocking level to increase health and vigor.

NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action: The proposed project is to harvest 60 madrone burls using ground-based winch and helicopter lining. Depressions from the burl removal would be filled with slash and other forest debris. No road construction is proposed.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) requires that “any action that is normally categorically excluded must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances in section 46.215” (listed below). Additional analysis and environmental documents must be completed for any normally categorically excluded action 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 resources; 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 ~~RW~~ Remarks:

SLS

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

Yes No

Initial RJM 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: *one sensitive plant site - but will not be disturbed during harvest*

Animals Yes No

Initial D.R.

Remarks: *Seasonal restrict helicopters at 3 sites*

Fish Yes No

Initial AS

Remarks:

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 RW 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: *continue to treat existing roadside weed populations*

Categorical Exclusion Reviewers

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Robyn Wicks	NEPA Coordinator	9/24/10	RW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	9/23/10	mw
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Biologist	9/23/10	D.R.
Angela SanFilippo	Fisheries Biologist	9/30/10	AS
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	10/13/10	S/S
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	10/13/10	KB
Al Mason	Fire/Fuels Specialist	9/23/10	AM
Ron Gregory	District Archaeologist	9/22/10	R24
Doug Stewart	Silviculturist	9/24/10	DS
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	10/12/10	TL
Randy Bryan	Engineer	9/24/10	RRB

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the harvest of 50 madrone burls at the locations listed in Table 1 and as described in the Proposed Action with Project Design Features.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action was reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area resource specialists. The specialists determined none of the extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action. Based on the Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action, with the incorporation of the Project Design Features, involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.



Jon K. Raby
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

10/18/10

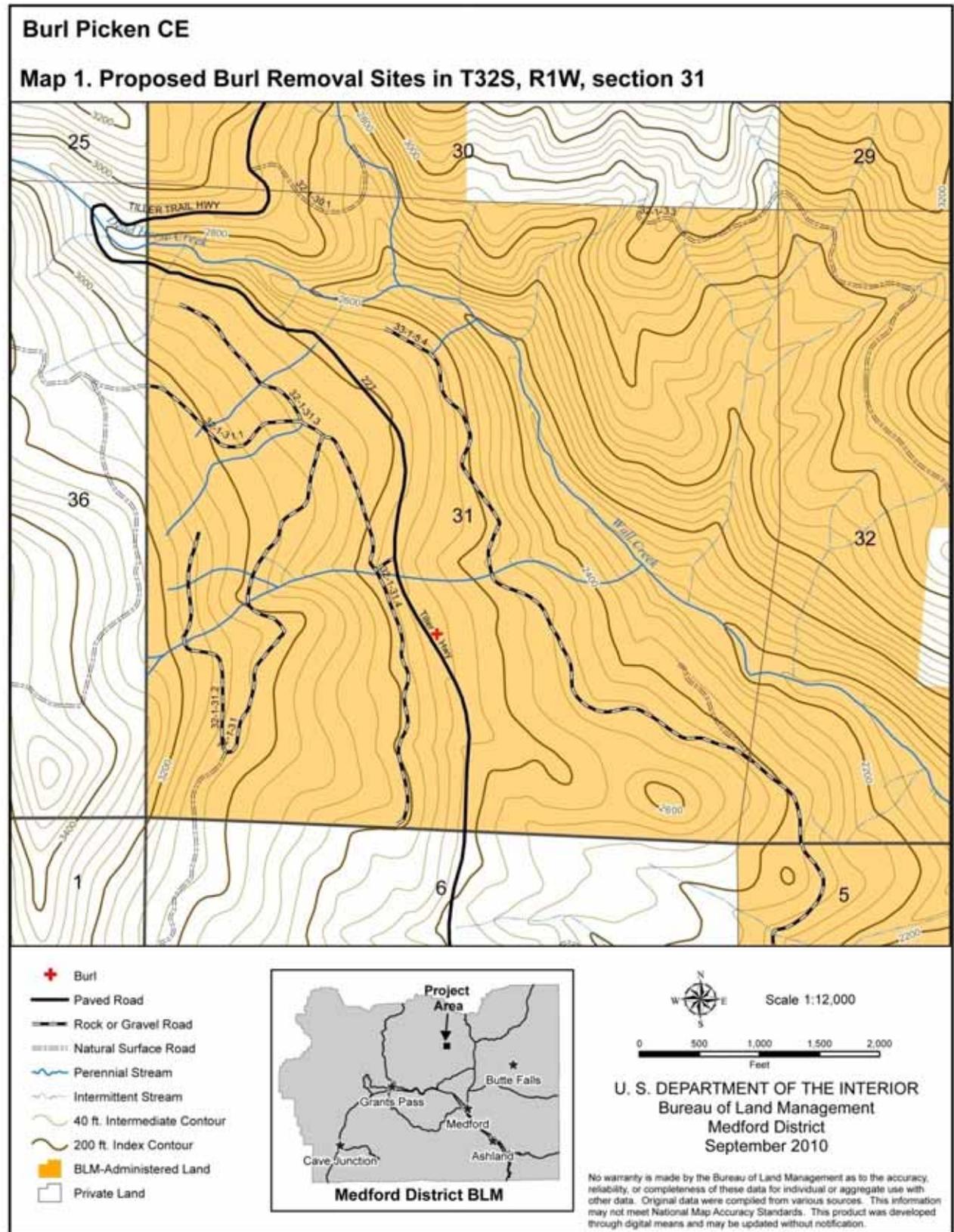
Date

Administrative Remedy

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.

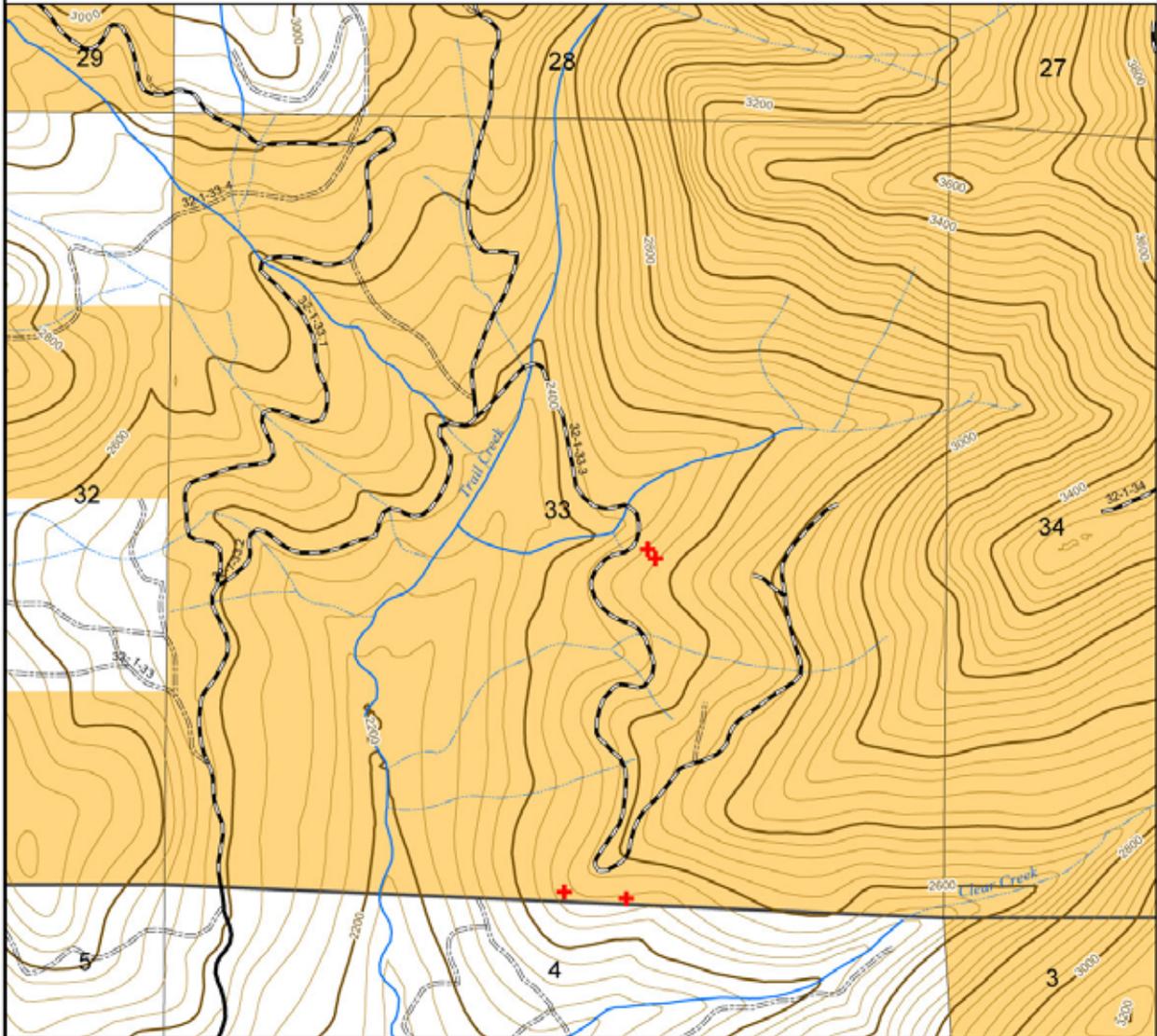
Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CE review, contact David Orban, Special Forest Products Manager, Medford District, Butte Falls Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, 97504, 541-618-2368.

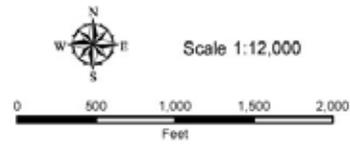
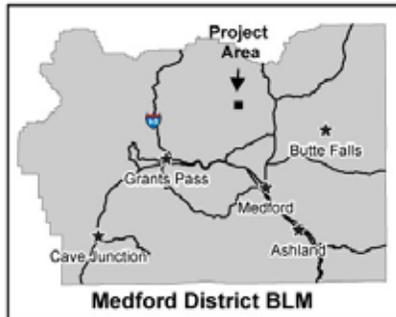


Burl Picken CE

Map 2. Proposed Burl Removal Sites in T32S, R1W, section 33



- Burl
- Paved Road
- Rock or Gravel Road
- Natural Surface Road
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- 40 ft. Intermediate Contour
- 200 ft. Index Contour
- BLM-Administered Land
- Private Land



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District
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