U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND DECISION

McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project
DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-006-CX

A. Background

Proposed Action Title: McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project

Location: Grants Pass Resource Area, Josephine County. Grave Creek 5th field watershed. T.34S., R.7W., Section 4

Land Use Allocations: Northern General Forest Management Area and Riparian Reserve

Project Description: The McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project proposes to commercially thin two conifer stands totaling approximately 58 acres. The first treatment is density management with a modified group selection component. The objective of this treatment is to enhance the development of the larger trees to help maintain their structure in the stand. This would be achieved by thinning and incorporating group selections, which would release the large dominant pine. The treatment is designed to maintain the nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for the northern spotted owl and enhance the growth and vigor of the large pine, as well as the residual trees. The second treatment is a commercial thin in a plantation. The objective of this treatment is to reduce the stand density, stimulate the growth and vigor of the stand, and promote structural diversity. Trees to be removed for harvest would be whole-tree yarded or yarded with tops attached. Merchantable saw logs would be removed from yarded material, and any remaining debris at the landing sites would be lopped and scattered, piled and burned at approved locations, chipped, or removed for biomass utilization. Following harvest activities, the timber sale administrator and fuels specialist will conduct a field assessment to evaluate site conditions and determine the appropriate method for treating activity fuels in units and along roadways.

Unit 1 is a 45 acre stand approximately 70 years old with diameters measured ranging from 7 to 38 inches at breast height (DBH). A portion of this unit was previously pre-commercially thinned with a brushing treatment. There are scattered older trees with desired wildlife characteristics that would be reserved from harvest.

Unit 1 is a density management treatment that would be thinned to maintain 60% canopy closure for nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for the northern spotted owl. Harvested trees would range from 7 to 28 inches DBH, with the average range between 8 and 16 inches DBH. Residual trees would generally be co-dominant and dominant trees. The largest, healthiest crowns will take precedence over species preference. The modified group selection establishes 14 openings around selected ponderosa and sugar pine trees (5 of these openings have more than one tree). These openings will help promote the survival of these large trees, giving them much needed growing space, light, nutrients, and water. One opening will have a 10 foot radius, two openings will have 20 foot radii, and the other 11 openings will have 40 foot radii. Post-treatment stand dynamics in Unit 1 will favor the large pine and Douglas-fir. The average mean diameter of the stand will increase, stand density will be reduced, and small openings will be established to enhance the growth and vigor of the large pine.

Unit 2 is a 13 acre progeny test site plantation. Progeny test sites are part of the tree improvement activities that started in the 1960s for large scale operational breeding programs. The studies have largely been completed and the sites have been returned to general forest management with the limitation of maintaining the genetic families represented. The existing progeny test site is overstocked due to lack of density management treatments such as pre-commercial thinning earlier in the stands life. This progeny site was originally clearcut harvested in 1984 and planted on a 9 ft. x 9 ft. systematic grid pattern with conifer seedlings in 1986. The majority of this stand has a DBH range of 6 to 12 inches. The progeny site will retain the pre-treatment stand characteristics (i.e. diameter distribution, crown size, and height) but will have a lower stand density. Structural diversity would develop through time with the increase in available nutrients and water, growing space, and light

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

- *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) including Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives;
- *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (*FEIS, 2000 and ROD,2001*);*
- *Final Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (FEIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995);
- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004);
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment* (1998) and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985).

Recent Court Rulings

Survey and Manage

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued an order in *Conservation Northwest, et al. v. Sherman, et al.*, No. 08-1067-JCC (W.D. Wash.), granting Plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment and finding NEPA violations in the *Final Supplemental to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (USDA and USDI, June 2007). In response, parties entered into settlement negotiations in April 2010, and the Court filed approval of the resulting Settlement Agreement on July 6, 2011. Projects that are within the range of the northern spotted owl are subject to the survey and management standards and guidelines in the 2001 ROD, as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

The McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan/Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001 ROD), as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

Pechman

The 2012 McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project applies a 2006 Exemption from a stipulation entered by the court in litigation regarding Survey and Manage species and the 2004 Record of Decision related to Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure in *Northwest Ecosystem Alliance v. Rey*, No. 04-844-MJP (W.D. Wash., Oct. 10, 2006). Previously, in 2006, the District Court (Judge Pechman) invalidated the agencies' 2004 RODs eliminating Survey and Manage due to NEPA violations. Following the District Court's 2006 ruling, parties to the litigation entered into a stipulation exempting certain categories of activities from the Survey and Manage standards and guidelines, including both pre-disturbance surveys and known site management. Also known as the Pechman Exemptions, the Court's Order from October 11, 2006 directs:

> *"Defendants shall not authorize, allow, or permit to continue any logging or other ground-disturbing activities on projects to which the 2004 ROD applied unless such activities are in compliance with the 2001 ROD (as the 2001 ROD was amended or modified as of March 21, 2004), except that this order will not apply to:*
> *a. Thinning projects in stands younger than 80 years old:*
> *b. Replacing culverts on roads that are in use and part of the road system, and removing culverts if the road is temporary or to be decommissioned;*
> *c. Riparian and stream improvement projects where the riparian work is riparian planting, obtaining material for placing in-stream, and road or trail decommissioning; and where the stream improvement work is the placement large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions; and*

d. The portions of project involving hazardous fuel treatments where prescribed fire is applied. Any portion of a hazardous fuel treatment project involving commercial logging will remain subject to the survey and management requirements except for thinning of stands younger than 80 years old under subparagraph a. of this paragraph."

Per the 2011 Settlement Agreement, the 2006 Pechman Exemptions remain in force:

"The provisions stipulated to by the parties and ordered by the court in Northwest Ecosystem Alliance v. Rey, No. 04-844-MJP (W.D. Wash. Oct. 10, 2006), shall remain in force. None of the following terms or conditions in this Settlement Agreement modifies in any way the October 2006 provisions stipulated to by the parties and ordered by the court in Northwest Ecosystem Alliance v. Rey, No. 04844-MJP (W.D. Wash. Oct. 10, 2006)."

The McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project meets Exemption A because it entails no regeneration harvest and entails thinning in stands less than 80 years old.

Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR)
On March 31, 2011, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia vacated and remanded the Secretary of the Interior's decision to withdraw the 2008 RODs/RMPs (Douglas Timber Operators et al. v. Salazar) effectively returning the districts to the 2008 RMPS.

Plaintiffs in the Pacific Rivers Council V. Shepard litigation filed a partial motion for summary judgment in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon on Endangered Species Act (ESA) claims and requested the court to vacate and remand the 2008 RODs/RMPs. A magistrate judge issued findings and recommendations on September 29, 2011 and recommended granting the Plaintiffs motion for partial summary judgment on their ESA claim. The Court recommends setting aside the agency action, vacating the 2008 RODs and reinstating the Northwest Forest Plan as the appropriate remedy. The Court will review and rule on any objections prior to issuing a final order.

Given the current uncertainty surrounding planning in western Oregon, The Medford District has designed projects to conform to both, the 2008 ROD/RMP and the 1995 ROD/RMP. Consequently, projects have been consistent with the goals and objectives in both the 1995 RMP and 2008 RMP.

C. Best Management Practices and Project Design Features

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by the Federal Clean Water Act to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the maximum extent practicable. The BMPs are methods, measures, or practices selected from Appendix D of the 1995 ROD/ RMP and Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2011-074, "Incorporating Road and Sediment Delivery Best Management Practices into Resource Management Plans" to minimize or prevent sediment delivery to the waters of the United States. BMPs in this Section are noted by

an asterisk *. Project Design Features (PDFs) are measures included in the site specific design of the Proposal to eliminate or minimize adverse impacts on the human environment.

Measures Common to All Projects

- Productivity loss resulting from topsoil disturbance and soil compaction would not exceed a combined calculated total of 5% (See page 10 "NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review" exemption 3).
- Suspend any project related activities if conditions develop that cause a potential for sediment laden runoff to enter a wetland, floodplain or waters of the state. Cover or otherwise temporarily stabilize all exposed soil. Properly install sediment trapping devices to disconnect site. Resume operations when sediment control devices are in place and conditions allow turbidity standards to be met.
- In order to prevent the potential spread of noxious weeds into the Medford District BLM, the operator would be required to clean all logging, construction, chipping, grinding, shredding, rock crushing, and transportation equipment prior to entry on BLM lands. Cleaning shall be defined as removal of dirt, grease, plant parts, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds into BLM lands. Cleaning prior to entry onto BLM lands may be accomplished by using a pressure hose.
- Only equipment inspected by the BLM would be allowed to operate within BLM lands. All subsequent move-ins of equipment as described above shall be treated the same as the initial move-in.
- Prior to initial move-in of any equipment, and all subsequent move-ins, the operator shall make the equipment available for BLM inspection at an agreed upon location off federal lands.
- If cultural resources are found during project implementation, the project would be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation and mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the Resource Area archaeologist, with input from Tribes, and with concurrence from the Field Manager and State Historic Preservation Office.
- A historic well is present in the project area, as shown on the Exhibit A map. The well has been filled in order to help alleviate the hazard. In order to assure that equipment stays clear of the hazard, the BLM will identify the perimeter of the well with hazard flagging. The purchaser shall maintain this perimeter until the termination of the contract.

Harvesting in Riparian Reserves

- *Slumps, intermittent seeps, and other unstable areas would be buffered (no treatment) by leaving one row of overstory trees or a 25 foot radius (whichever is greatest), from the outer edge of instability around these areas for soil stabilization (RMP, p. 154).
- *Unless unsafe, trees within Riparian Reserve boundaries (one or two site potential trees) would be directionally felled away from the stream, and upslope trees would not be felled into Riparian Reserves.

- *Trees in no-harvest portions of Riparian Reserves that are accidentally knocked over during falling and yarding would be retained on site for fish /wildlife habitat and would not be treated with activity fuels.
- Refuel equipment a minimum of 150 feet away from streams and other waterbodies. Store equipment containing reportable quantities of toxic fluids outside of Riparian Reserves. Hydraulic fluid and fuel lines would be in proper working condition to minimize leakage into streams.
- A no treatment buffer of 125 feet, measured from bankfull width would be used to protect water quality within the stream and perennial springs. This buffer is based on the Ecological Protection Width Needs chart in the Record of Decision for the NWFP Standards and Guidelines (RMP, p. 154).
- Where new skid trail construction is necessary within the Riparian Reserve along McKnabe Creek, new skid trails would either be 1) constructed and used during dry conditions and fully rehabilitated (as described above for upland skid trails); or 2) construction would be restricted to the driest time of the year (generally Aug 1st-Oct 15th, as determined by the Authorized Officer), equipment would be required to walk on slash and, as necessary to prevent offsite erosion, skid trails would be scarified, seeded, mulched, slash cover placed, and water-barred prior to Oct 15th of the harvest year.

Roads

- * Haul would not occur on all hydrologically connected roads when water is flowing in the ditchlines or during any conditions that would result in any of the following; surface displacement such as rutting or ribbons; continuous mud splash or tire slide; fines being pumped through road surfacing from the subgrade and resulting in a layer of surface sludge; road drainage causing a visible increase in stream turbidities, or any condition that would result in water being chronically routed into tire tracks or away from designed road drainage during precipitation events. Hauling on natural surface or rocked roads would not resume for a minimum of 48 hours following any storm event that results in ½ inch or more precipitation within a 24 hour period, and until road surface is sufficiently dry to prevent any of the above conditions from reoccurring, and as approved by the authorized officer.
- Natural surface and rocked haul routes and related ditchlines that intersect coho critical habitat (CCH) will have sediment barriers (e.g., hay bales, silt fence, settling ponds) installed to prevent sediment from reaching CCH. Sediment barriers will be placed by the purchaser according to specifications and locations outlined by the Authorized Officer. These barriers will be maintained and monitored by the purchaser and contract administrator during the life of the timber sale contract and haul route usage. Barriers will be in place for one winter season following haul route use.
- *Prior to wet season hauling activities, implement structural road treatments as needed to prevent discernible stream sedimentation from occurring during off season use, such as: increasing the frequency of cross drains, installing sediment

barriers or catch basins, applying gravel lifts or asphalt road surfacing at stream crossing approaches, and cleaning and armoring ditchlines.

Maintenance

- Waste material from road maintenance and excavation activities would be placed in stable disposal areas a minimum of 200 feet from any stream and in a location where sediment laden runoff can be confined. Where necessary, provide erosion control to minimize sediment delivery to streams.
- *Inspect and maintain culvert inlets and outlets, drainage structures and ditches before and during the wet season to diminish the likelihood of plugged culverts and the possibility of washouts.

Yarding and equipment

- Whole tree yarding with tops attached to the last log would be permitted as long as contractor can operate without causing unacceptable damage from bark slippage, girdling, broken tops, or damage to live crowns. If it is determined by the Authorized Officer that unacceptable amounts of damage is occurring, trees would be required to be bucked and limbed as directed by the Authorized Officer. Delivered log length not to exceed 41 feet.
- Harvest equipment used off of designated skid trails would operate on ground less than 35% slope, have an arm capable of reaching at least 20 feet and minimize turning. Harvester operations should use an adequate layer of green slash (limbs, tops and small boles) created by the harvesting or felling process to limit bare soil exposure. A minimum layer between 4 and 6 inches in depth, of slash/limbs is necessary to prevent compaction in tread areas and should be placed on areas of travel.
- Limit the number of passes the machine makes across any one area to the minimum needed to remove materials
- Tractors would be equipped with an integral arch to minimize soil disturbance and compaction.
- Existing skid trails would be utilized whenever practical. New skid trails would be placed at least 150 feet apart in Unit 1, where topography will allow. New skid trails would be pre-designated and approved by the Authorized Officer.
- Ground based logging, including the construction and rehabilitation of skid trails, would not be allowed when soil moisture at a depth of 4-6 inches is wet enough to maintain form when compressed, or when soil at the surface would readily displace, causing ribbons and ruts along equipment tracks. These conditions are generally found when soil moisture at a depth of 4-10" is between 15-25%, depending on soil type.
- Ground based yarding would generally be limited to slopes less than 35%.

Activity Fuels and Prescribed Fire

- Trees to be removed for harvest would be whole-tree yarded or yarded with tops attached to minimize activity slash remaining within the harvest units. It is anticipated the majority of the activity slash would be extracted from each unit by

this process and piled at the landing sites. In areas utilizing ground-based harvesting, the equipment shall walk over the slash, breaking it up into smaller pieces. Merchantable sawlogs would be removed from yarded material, and any remaining debris at the landing sites would be machine and/or hand piled and burned at approved locations, chipped, or removed for biomass utilization.

- Activity slash remaining in units would be lopped-and-scattered. Activity slash along roadways may be handpile/burned, chipped, or lopped-and-scattered based on a post-logging assessment of fuel loading by the Authorized Officer and Fuels Specialist.
- In areas designated for lop-and-scatter, all cut slash will be lopped to no more than 8 feet in length and scattered such that it is less than 18 inches above the forest floor. All slash would be arranged in a discontinuous pattern across the forest floor. If it is determined by the Authorized Officer that unacceptable amounts of damage is occurring from whole tree yarding and other harvest methods, hand piling and hand pile burning of the units may be required. If activity slash exceeds an average of 2 ½ feet above the forest floor and has a continuous pattern exceeding 100 feet in diameter the Authorized Officer and Fuels Specialist will determine if hand piling and hand pile burning of activity slash would be required.
- Each handpile would be at least 5 feet tall and at least 6 feet in diameter, but shall not exceed 8 feet tall and 8 feet in diameter. Each hand pile would be covered with a large enough piece of 4 mil black plastic to ensure a dry ignition spot (generally 5 ft x 5 ft or large enough to cover 90% of the pile). All 4 corners and the middle of plastic sheets shall be anchored with slash or other debris. To minimize scorch and mortality, hand piles would not be placed adjacent to or within 10 feet of leave trees or large woody debris.
- Around each landing pile, a minimum 10 foot area on the ground would be cleared of slash and other vegetation, litter, and debris to prevent escaped fire. Each landing pile would be covered with at least a 4 mm black plastic to ensure a dry ignition point (generally 10 ft x 10 ft or large enough to cover 80% of the pile). To minimize scorch and mortality, landing piles would not be placed adjacent to or within 15 feet of leave trees. To facilitate desired consumption, landing piles would be as free of dirt as reasonably possible.
- Piles would be burned in the fall to spring season after one or more inches of precipitation have occurred. Patrol and mop-up of burning piles would occur when needed to prevent treated areas from reburning or becoming an escaped fire.
- Slash piles would not be allowed on roadways, turnouts, shoulders, or on the cut bank.
- All prescribed burning would be managed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the regulations established by the Air Quality Division of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Special Status Plant Species

- Bureau Sensitive, and Federally Threatened/Endangered plant sites (vascular and nonvascular), if found, would receive a 20-40 foot diameter no-treatment protection buffer.

Wildlife

- If any spotted owls are discovered, seasonally restrict harvest activities from March 1 through June 30 the following distances of known northern spotted owl sites: 195 feet for chainsaw and 105 feet for heavy equipment.

D. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed commercial harvesting is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (C)(7) "Harvesting live trees not to exceed 70 acres..." in which activities "Shall not include even-aged regeneration harvests or vegetation type conversions."

E. NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

The Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR § 46.215) 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 adverse effect on public health or safety.
( ) Yes **(x) No**

Remarks: None

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** **(x) No**
Remarks: A cultural resource survey was completed for the McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project in 2010 and one historic site was recorded during inventory. The site record was mailed to SHPO for review, recommending that the site is Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. SHPO concurred with the eligibility recommendation in a letter dated 11/7/2011. According to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), sites that are Not Eligible do not warrant protection. SHPO concurred in a letter dated 3/20/2012 that the timber sale will have No Effect to cultural resources and the timber sale can proceed as planned.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. **( ) Yes** **(x) No**
Remarks: The progeny site is a plantation that has been intensively managed and has a high level of compaction. To thin this site, designated skid roads that are closer together

than typical ground based harvest units are needed in order to avoid excessive bole and root damage to the residual trees. Soil compaction resulting from activities proposed in the progeny test site is anticipated to exceed 12%. While the RMP guidance for unentered stands is to "use designated skid roads to limit soil compaction to less than 12 percent of the harvest area" (RMP, p. 166), the progeny has been entered extensively in the past. The RMP states that "Designated skid roads should be ripped if they will not be used again until the next rotation" (p. 166). The test site and its design are not conducive for soil compaction mitigation measures to occur after this initial entry. The distance between rows of residual trees is too narrow. Ripping the skid trails would damage the root systems of the residual trees. This initial commercial thinning entry would result in a slight loss of soil productivity above 5% in the short term. This short term loss of soil productivity was considered in light of subsoiling skid trails and the potential damage to residual trees or loss of growth resulting from an overstocked stand. After the test site receives its final harvest, the unit would be subsoiled to meet compaction and soil productivity loss standards.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental effects. **( ) Yes** **(x) No**
Remarks: None

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
( ) Yes **(x) No**
Remarks: None

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. **( ) Yes** **(x) No**
Remarks: None

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 **(x) No**
Remarks: None

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. **( ) Yes** **(x) No**
Remarks: Consultation for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed and Letter of Concurrence was issued (Tails #: 13420-2010-I-0178). Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for ESA and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is not needed as there is no effect to listed fish species and their associated habitat within the Planning Area.

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. **( ) Yes** **(x) No**

Remarks: None

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). **( ) Yes** **(x) No**
Remarks: None

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** **(x) No**
Remarks: None

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native 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** **(x)No**
Remarks: Under the ongoing program, noxious weeds within BLM lands would be surveyed and treated as funding is available. Treatments would primarily consist of herbicide application, hand pulling, and mechanical cutting methods as analyzed in the Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (USDI 1998).

Prepared by _____ 4/24/12
Martin Lew Date
Environmental Planner

F. Signature of Authorizing Official

_____ 4/24/12
Karen Schank, Field Manager Date
Grants Pass Resource Area

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT

NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DECISION DOCUMENTATION
McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project

DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-006-CX

Decision and Rationale: Based upon the attached Categorical Exclusion, it is my decision to implement the McKnabe Thin Timber Sale Project described in the Proposed Action including Best Management Practices and Project Design Features.

In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the Proposed Action is in accordance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. Therefore, an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement is not needed. It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action in accordance with 43 CFR 5003 –Administrative Remedies.

Implementation Date: If no protest is received by the close of business (4:30 P.M.) within 15 days after publication of the Notice of Sale, this decision would become final and may be implemented immediately.

Karen Schank, Acting Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

4/24/12
Date

Administrative Review: The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR § 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer Karen Schank within 15 days of the publication of the notice of decision/timber sale advertisement in the Grants Pass Courier.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (b) states, "Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision." This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail (email) or facsimile (fax) protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the Grants Pass Interagency Office will be accepted. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

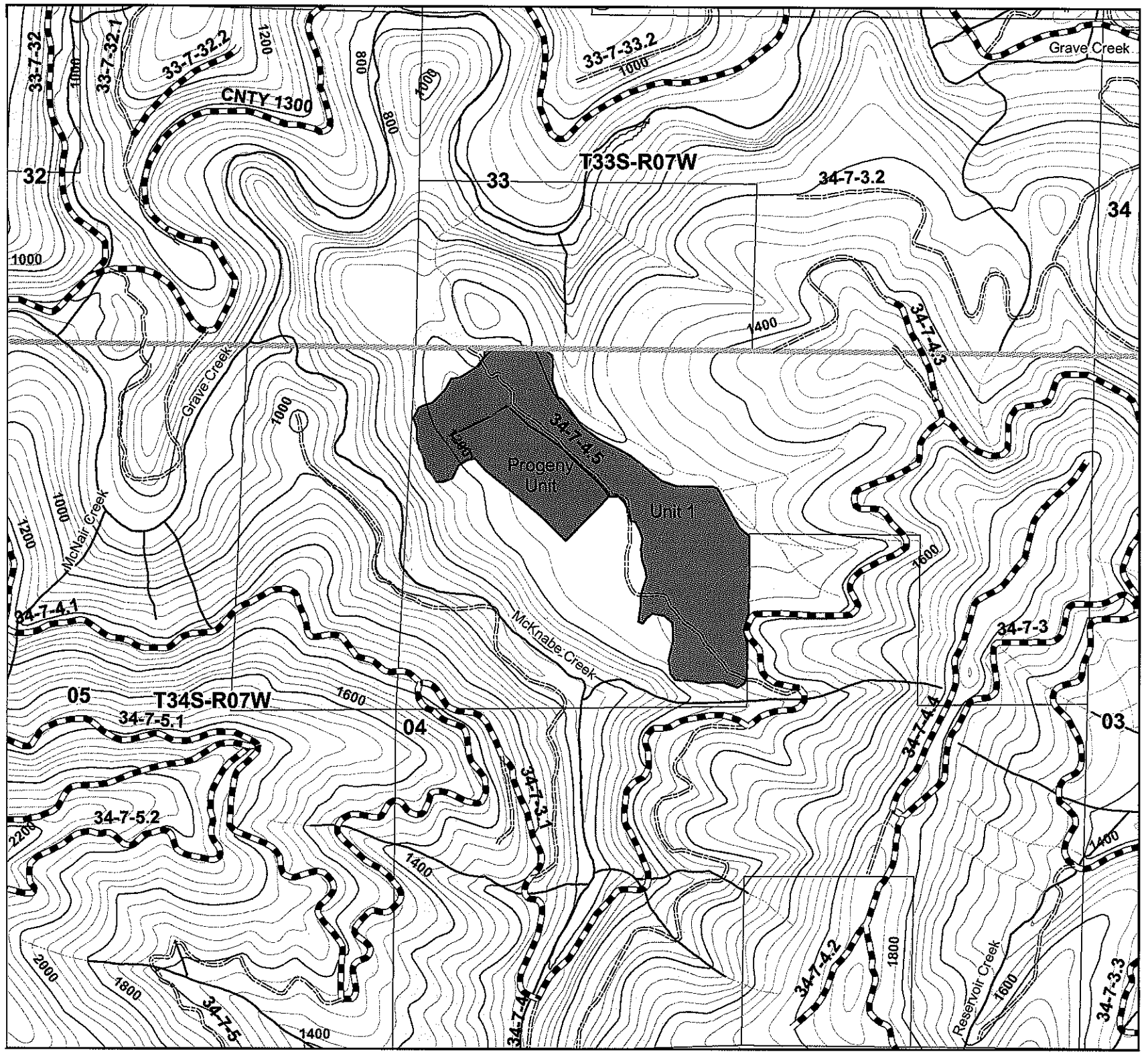
43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (c) states: "Protest received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision or the notice of sale are not timely filed and shall not

be considered." Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to her. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision as permitted by regulations at 5003.3 (f).

If no protest is received by close of business (4:30 pm) within 15 days after publication of the notice of sale, the decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, the project decision will be considered in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available, and the Grants Pass Resource Area will issue a protest decision.

For further information concerning this decision contact Martin Lew, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone (541) 471-6504, 2164 NE Spalding Avenue, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526.

McKnabe Timber Sale Categorical Exclusion Map



Legend

- McKnabe Units

Road

Surface Type

- Paved
- Rocked
- Natural Surface
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Intermediate 40-ft contour
- Index 200-ft contour
- Section
- Township Range
- BLM Ownership
- Non-Federal Ownership

N W E S

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,000 feet

40' CONTOUR INTERVAL

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
(541) 618-2200

Map Created: 4/24/2012
Created By: SQF