

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for Tiller/Trail Hwy Landslide Drilling

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0012-CX

Description of Proposed Action

Jackson County has proposed a geotechnical investigation on the ongoing instability near MP 42.9 on the Tiller-Trail roadway (Highway 227), in Township 32 South, Range 1 West, Section 30, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. The landslide currently affects the proper drainage and erosion of the west side ditch line of Highway 227 for a distance of approximately 300 feet. Concrete barriers were placed along the ditch line (the approximate toe of the slide) by Jackson County to help 'catch' and retain the soils and waters which continually seep from the slide mass. The landslide extends approximately 250 feet upslope, (well beyond the road right-of-way), in a series of cracks and slide scarps. See the attached aerial (Figure 1) which shows the landslide/project location, attached.

To complete this project the following scope of work and the use of the following equipment/tools:

- Clear pathway for truck-mounted drill rig. This will be along an old logging access road that parallels the highway to a turnout north of the slide area. Equipment and tools needed: gas powered chainsaw, axes, and shovels. **Note:** field observations indicate removal of downed tree trunks and a few (2-3) small (<10") trees from the road will be required.
- Provide water, tools, fire extinguishers and fire watch during and after pathway clearing work and drilling.
- Drill 3 or 4 exploratory borings through the slide mass and into the underlying soft rock. Equipment needed: Diedrich D-50 Turbo track mounted drill rig, owned and operated by Subsurface Technologies of North Plains, Oregon.
- Install piezometers in three of the borings. Use tall risers in case of artesian head.
- Seal and backfill borings per OWRD protocol.

Plan Conformance Review

This proposal is in conformance with objectives, land use allocations, and management direction in the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 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.

Project Design Features

- Where feasible, use existing jeep road footprint to access drill site locations located on North side of slide.
- On jeep road footprint, the clearing limits of vegetative material should be no wider than the existing road prism. Overhanging vegetative material may be cut only to allow equipment to pass or to operate safely. Areas that are on previously undisturbed ground shall reduce the clearing limits to the minimum area needed to move equipment into drill sites and to operate. No grubbing of trees and other vegetative material will be allowed. Cut all trees and vegetative

material off at ground level and scatter resulting debris. Buck resulting debris into lengths no longer than 8' and keep debris concentrations under two feet in depth.

- Ensure that no debris (vegetation, rocks, etc.) from operations will roll or fall onto highway or slide area.
- Block access road after use.
- Store all hazardous materials and petroleum products in durable containers placed outside of riparian reserves. Locate so an accidental spill will be contained and will not drain into the stream system.
- Stop work immediately and report by telephone to the authorized BLM officer if any human remains/grave sites, cultural resources, or paleontological resources (i.e., prehistoric/historic sites or objects or vertebrate fossils) 50 years of age or older are discovered during any project. All actions in the immediate area of the discovery will be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer in consultation with a qualified cultural resources specialist to determine appropriate actions required to comply with Federal, State, or local laws.
- Require equipment that will travel off system roads to be washed prior to entry onto BLM administered lands to remove dirt and all plant parts.
- Prepare a spill plan. If a spill does occur, waste diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid, and other hazardous materials will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved location in accordance with Federal regulations.
- Refuel equipment at least 175 feet from streams, ponds, or other wet areas. Equipment will not be stored in a stream channel overnight. Hydraulic fluid and fuel lines will be in proper working condition in order to minimize leakage into streams.
- Temporarily suspend work if monitoring indicates rain storms have saturated soils to the extent there is potential for causing excessive stream sedimentation.
- All operations will be in compliance with fire season restrictions and regulations identified by the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- A notification of operations with the State of Oregon shall be filed before any activities start.
- Place woody debris or other appropriate barriers (e.g., rocks, logs and slash) on the first 100 feet of jeep road leading off Highway 227 upon completion of geotechnical investigation to block and discourage unauthorized vehicle use.
- Use erosion control techniques on exposed soil area to minimize sediment movement off-site (e.g., waterbarring, apply scatter limbs and other fine material).

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, I.1. This section allows for

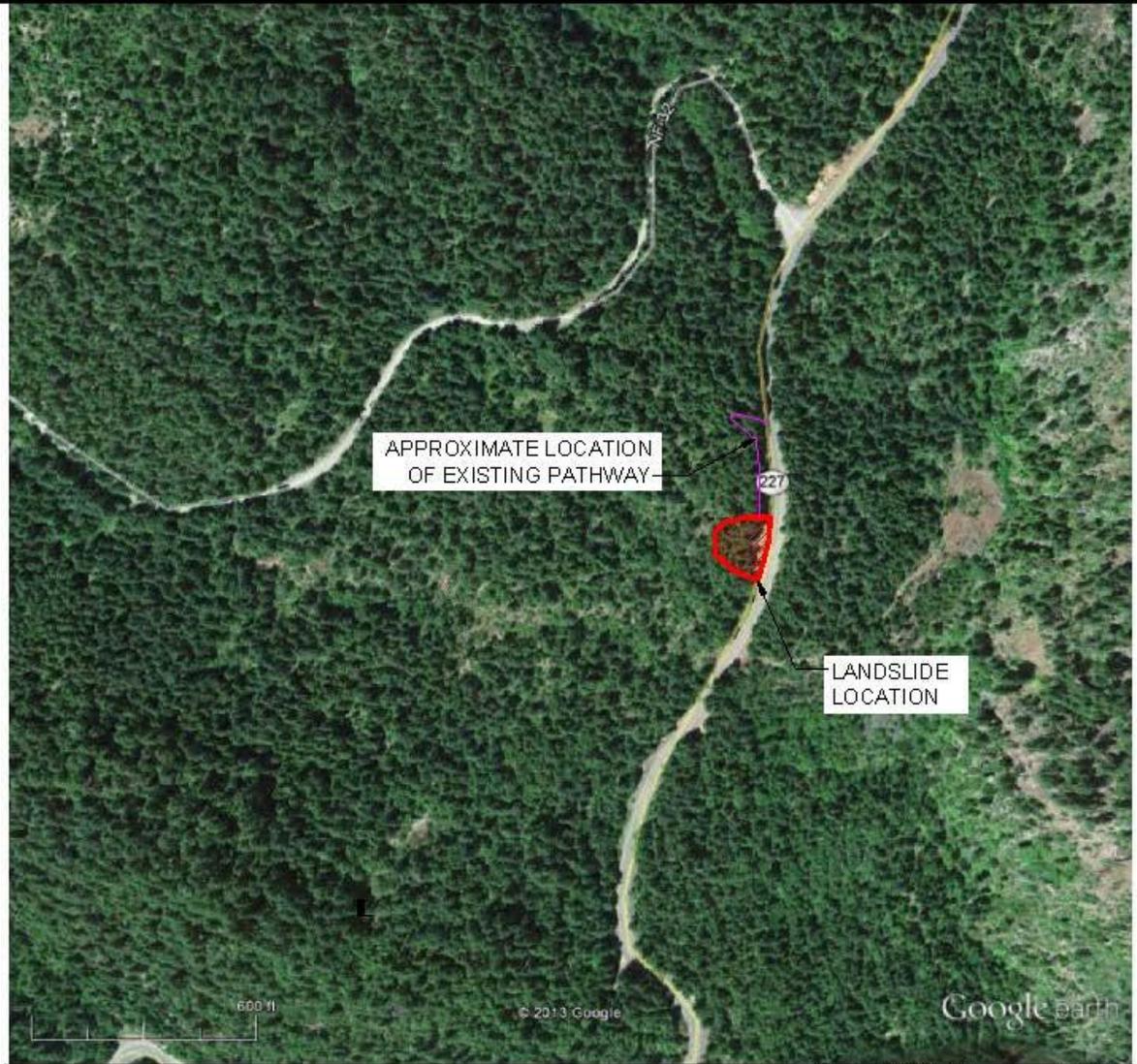
Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event....

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the “extraordinary circumstances,” included in the Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) 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 Jeff Brown, Project Leader, at 541-618-2322.

SITE PLAN AERIAL PROVIDED BY
GOOGLE EARTH



	THE GALLI GROUP GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTING 612 NW 3rd Street Grants Pass, OR 97526	SITE LOCATION WITH AERIAL		DATE: JULY 2013	FIGURE: 1
		TILLER-TRAIL HIGHWAY SLIDE, MP42.9		JOB NO: 02-4829-01	
		JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON		REV: 7/9/2013 2:08 PM	
				PREPARED BY: MG3	
				629 Site Plan 12 8 UN.dwg	

NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action:

The proposed project is to do a geotechnical investigation on the ongoing instability near MP 42.9 on the Tiller-Trail roadway (Highway 227), in Jackson County, Oregon. The slide area is located in Township 32 South, Range 1 West, Section 30, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

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 JW 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 JW 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 JW Remarks:

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

Yes No

Initial JW 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 JW 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 the bureau.

Yes No

Initial JR 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 D.R. Remarks:

Fish Yes No

Initial C.V. 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 JW Remarks:

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

Yes No

Initial JW 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 JW 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:

Categorical Exclusion Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	7/17/13	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	7/16/13	mw
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Biologist	7/15/13	D.R.
Chris Volpe Jennifer Smith	District Fisheries Biologist	7/16/13	C.V.
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	7/16/13	S/S
Amy Meredith	Soil Scientist	7/15/13	AM
Al Mason	Fire/Fuels Specialist	7/15/13	APM
Lisa Brennan	Archaeologist	07/16/13	LR
Jeff Brown	Engineer	07/16/13	AB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	7/16/13	TL

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the geotechnical investigation on the ongoing instability near MP 42.9 on the Tiller-Trail roadway (Highway 227), in Jackson County, Oregon as described in the Proposed Action. The slide area is located in T. 32 S., R. 1 W., Section 30, W.M., Jackson County, Oregon.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. 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.



Jon K. Raby
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

7/17/13

Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Medford District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR 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.