



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
3040 Biddle Rd.
Medford OR 97504**

Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Decision Record
Medford District Repair of Storm Damaged Roads

**DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2015-0003-CX
NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW / DECISION RECORD**

A. Location and Land Use Allocation

Activities will occur on all land use allocations on the Medford District BLM and on roads under other ownership where BLM controls and maintains the road.

Project locations include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. T34S-R08W-Section 1 | Almeda Road, 34-8-13 |
| 2. T36S-R07W-Section 22 | Blue Gulch Road, 36-7-22.0 |
| 3. T37S-R07W-Section 26 | Dry Poorman, 33-7-35.1 |
| 4. T32S-R04W-Section 1 | Hauck Ranch Road, 32-4-1.0 |
| 5. T34S-R07W-Section 27.1 | Hog Slide Road, 34-7-27.1 |
| 6. T32S-R07W-Section 17 | Susan Creek 101 Road, 32-7-20.1 |
| 7. T32S-R08W-Section 35 | Upper Riffle Creek Road, 32-8-35.2 |
| 8. T32S-R01W-Section 33 | Upper Trail Creek Mainline, 32-1-33.1 |
| 9. T32S-R08W-Section 1 | West Fork Cow Creek Road, 32-8-1.1 |

B. Background

Heavy rains on February 5th and 6th, 2015, damaged a number of roads on the District, primarily on the Butte Falls and Grants Pass Resource Areas. Damage included erosion of the road prism and fill slopes, blocking roadways, sediment and debris clogging or damaging culverts, and slope failures. Emergency repair and stabilization has occurred in most areas, but some work still remains to be completed. This project will authorize completion of those repairs.

C. Description of the Proposed Action

Roads that were damaged in the February 5-6, 2015 storms will be repaired and include activities such as:

- Removal of excess sediment and debris from roadways and clogged culverts
- Uncover, repair, and replace culverts
- Install riprap to stabilize stream banks
- Reestablish pump chance for fire suppression at one site (Hauck Ranch Road)
- Blading and shaping (recrowning)

- Cleaning of ditches, catch basins and culverts
- Road surfacing (rocking, asphalt, chip-sealed)
- Removing slides
- Installing, repairing and replacing cross drain (relief) culverts and culverts on nonfish-bearing streams
- Installing and repairing waterbars and waterdips
- Construction of rolling dips

This Categorical Exclusion does **not** include repair work that would be needed in fish-bearing streams.

In conducting maintenance activities in areas of Port-Orford Cedar, the Medford District's Port-Orford Cedar management guidelines will be adhered to.

Road Repair Project Design Features: Project design features (PDFs) are specific measures included in the proposed action to minimize impacts on the human environment and comply with the District's management direction in the Resource Management Plan, including the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and State and Federal laws. The DOI/BLM Manual 9113 would be referenced for guidance. Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint and point-source pollution to the maximum extent practicable are incorporated in the PDFs.

The following PDFs would be implemented as applicable for site-specific conditions.

1. Heavy equipment shall be washed prior to being transported to, or between locations on federal lands to remove soil and plant parts to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and disease into the project area. Use the fifth field watershed designations for defining project areas. (Consult with Resource Area Botanists about highly infected areas of concern and for a map of the areas.)
2. Non-emergency road maintenance work shall occur during the dry season (generally between May 15 and October 15). Certain activities (e.g., blading of aggregate roads, rocking, brushing, cross drain installation) that would not produce sediment into streams, occurring a minimum of 200 feet away from any stream may be permitted when conditions are dry during the wet season (generally Oct 15 – May 15). When dry conditions are experienced within seasonal restrictions, coordination with area specialists for agreement on the activity shall occur. No ditch maintenance shall occur during the wet season (generally Oct 15 – May 15) unless for safety or resource protection. Work shall be suspended during precipitation events or when observations indicate that saturated soils exist to the extent that there is visible runoff or a potential for causing elevated stream turbidity and sedimentation. Emergency road work may be permitted during the wet season.
3. Retain ground vegetation on cut and fill slopes in order to reduce surface erosion and maintain slope stability unless it poses a safety hazard, is restricting drainage, or restricts maintenance activities. Cut vegetation as required for safety and maintenance, leaving the root mass and ground surface intact.
4. Avoid disturbing the roots of vegetation or the soil surface in ditchlines unless necessary specifically to maintain the road drainage system. The need for sediment control measures will be evaluated and implemented if necessary, where ditch line or culvert maintenance is required within 100 feet of streams.

5. Avoid undercutting the toe of cut-slopes and sidecasting. Sidecasting of material shall not occur within 200 feet of streams and not on slopes of over 65%.
6. Waste material from road maintenance 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.
7. Dewater streams during culvert removal, replacement, and installation to minimize the movement of sediment downstream.
8. Install downspout structures and/or energy dissipaters (e.g., rock material) at newly installed cross drain outlets or drain dips where water is discharged on unprotected fill-slopes to reduce potential for soil erosion.
9. All soil disturbances associated with road drainage improvement and culvert installation / replacement shall be within the existing road Rights-of-Way except for splash pads at the end of downspouts.
10. All ground disturbance, other than ditchline cleaning, within 200 feet of any stream shall be mulched with weed free straw or native materials. A minimum of 80 percent ground cover shall be maintained following such activities. Where the potential for surface erosion is high, consider seeding with native grass seed. Apply native seed and mulch to all soils that are disturbed or exposed during stream culvert removal, replacement, and installation in the same operational season the work is completed.
11. Where necessary, apply water or approved road surface stabilizers / dust control additives to reduce surfacing material loss and buildup of fine sediment that can enter into wetlands, floodplains and streams during rainy periods, particularly near residences. Prevent entry of road surface stabilizers / dust control additives into streams during application.
12. Equipment refueling shall not occur within 150 feet of streams to prevent toxic materials from entering a stream. Equipment shall not be stored in a stream channel. Hydraulic fluid and fuel lines shall be in proper working condition in order to minimize leakage into streams.
13. Store all hazardous materials and petroleum products in durable containers located more than 150 feet away from streams and located so accidental spills would be contained and would not drain into the stream system. Waste diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid and other hazardous materials shall be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved site.
14. Follow all applicable State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality guidelines for spill prevention and containment of petroleum products (Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340, Department of Environmental Quality, Division 142, Oil and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Requirements).
15. Activities that would create noise of high levels and that would disturb nesting raptors and Northern Spotted Owls should not occur during the nesting season except in cases of emergency. Check with the applicable resource area for location of known nest sites and seasonal restriction dates.

16. If cultural resources are discovered, the Resource Area archaeologist will be notified and appropriate action taken based on concurrence from the Field Manager and State Historic Preservation Office.

17. Adhere to management direction in special areas as detailed in their respective management plans (e.g., Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) RMP, Hellgate Recreation Area Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP)).

18. Post signs to warn the public about road maintenance where necessary for safety.

19. If known rare plant sites occur within the project area, the Resource Area Botanist will notify the road maintenance crew and develop appropriate protection measures.

C. Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

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

Project Consistency:

As all activities in this project occur within the road prism or in other damaged areas, there are no habitat disturbing activities that would trigger the requirement for surveys. As no habitat disturbing activities are proposed, Survey and Manage or Special Status Species surveys are not necessary and will not be performed. Therefore, this project meets the provisions of 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*, and the BLM Special Status Species policy.

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 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This plan has been reviewed to insure the proposal is in conformance as required by 43 CFR 1610.5 and BLM MS 1617.3.

D. Categorical Exclusion : The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 46.210 (f) *Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g. , limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).*

It is also covered by BLM categorical exclusion 516 DM 11.9 G. Transportation: (2) *Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan;* and

516 DM 11.9 I. Emergency Stabilization:

(1) 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 that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or repair of existing culverts, roads, trails, fences, and minor facilities; construction of protection fences; planting, seeding, and mulching; and removal of hazard trees, rocks, soil, and other mobile debris from, on, or along roads, trails, campgrounds, and watercourses. These activities:

(a) Shall be completed within one year following the event;

(b) Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides;

(c) Shall not include the construction of new roads or other new permanent infrastructure;

(d) Shall not exceed 4,200 acres; and

(e) 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*

(f) 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 minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

** While the CX authority allows for construction of temporary roads, this CX does not authorize temporary road construction.*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances having effects that may significantly affect the environment as documented in the following review. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR § 46.215 rise to the level of significance. A summary of the extraordinary circumstances is listed below. The action must have a significant or a disproportional effect on the listed categories to warrant further analysis and environmental review.

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety. **Yes** **No**

Remarks: This project will have beneficial impacts on public health and safety by repairing and maintaining BLM-managed roads in safe conditions for public use. Effects will be beneficial but will not rise to the level of significance as road maintenance and repair was anticipated and analyzed in the EISs which this project tiers to.

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

Remarks: Road maintenance will occur within many of these areas; however, PDFs will prevent significant effects and the project will adhere to special management guidance in other Resource Management Plans (e.g., CSNM RMP, RAMP) on the District.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. **Yes** **No**

Remarks: No such controversial effects or unresolved conflicts have been identified.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental effects. **Yes** **No**

Remarks: Road repair and maintenance has occurred on the Medford District for many years and no highly uncertain, unique, unknown, or potentially significant environmental effects have been identified.

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. **Yes** **No**

Remarks: Road repair and maintenance has occurred on the Medford District for many years; this does not set a precedent for future action or represent a decision about future actions.

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. **Yes** **No**

Remarks: No cumulative effects have been identified and none are expected.

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**

Remarks: No such effects are anticipated.

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 No

Remarks: PDFs will prevent significant impacts on proposed or listed species.

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. Yes No

Remarks: Road repair and maintenance will not violate any Federal, State, local or Tribal laws.

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). Yes No

Remarks: No such effects are anticipated.

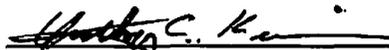
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). Yes No

Remarks: Road repair and maintenance will not limit access to such sites.

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 No

Remarks: Road repair and maintenance, along with implementation of PDFs in this project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species

Reviewers:


District Planning & Environmental Coordinator
Preparer / Reviewer

29-006-2015
Date

Decision

I have reviewed the proposed action in accordance with the above criteria and have determined that the proposed action would not involve any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the actions do not meet any of the criteria for exception and are categorically excluded from future environmental review.



Authorized Official

24-Aug-2015
Date

Administrative Remedy

Notice of the 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 Tony Kerwin, Medford District Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 3040 Biddle Road, 97504, 541-618-2402.