

# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW & DECISION RECORD

(DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2014-0008-CX)

**Project Name:** Root Wad Extraction Project

**BLM Office:** Ashland Resource Area, Medford District Office

**Contact:** Chris Volpe, Project Leader @ 541- 618-2462

**Location:** Along the 37-2E-24.5 road in T. 37 S., R. 3 E., Section 19, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, OR (Appendix A).

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to donate six (6) trees (bole sections with root wads attached) to the state of Oregon for use in a restoration/stabilization project at Touvelle State Park. The trees to be donated are on the ground, a result of a blowdown event in the Conde Creek area about 5 years ago (Appendix B).

A contractor would cut the root wad/boles into manageable lengths (approximately 20 feet). Trees would be extracted using a 12 foot tracked log loader, which would not leave the road prism. Yarding would be limited to within 100 feet of the road. Hauling of trees would be accomplished using either a semi end or “tub” trailer. Trees would be extracted and hauled off-site in the summer or fall of 2014.

## The following project design features are required:

- The Contractor shall discontinue hauling upon written notice of the Authorized Officer that such operations are causing damage to the existing facilities.
- Contractor shall leave the roads in as good of condition than what existed prior to use.
- Contractor shall be responsible for maintenance of the BLM Roads used.
- Permittee shall install and maintain signage that access road use is restricted to authorized vehicles only.
- Minimize all ground and vegetation disturbance and confine it to the existing road prism to the extent practical.
- All disturbed surfaces outside the travelway (road surface), including disturbance within the existing ditch and the cut/fillslope and other areas of loose fill shall be restored to the original configuration and seeded with an approved native seed mix and mulched with weed-free materials as work progresses.
- All heavy equipment shall be pressure washed to remove all dirt and debris prior to entering BLM lands in the project area.
- If, during project implementation, the contractor/workers encounters or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value on federal lands, such as historical or pre-historical ruins, graves, grave markers, or artifacts, the contractor shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural value and notify the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). The project may 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 and concurrence by the Ashland Field Manager and State Historic Preservation Office.

## PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action is in compliance with the *1995 Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994).

This project is consistent with 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*, as incorporated into the Medford District Resource Management Plan.

The proposed action is consistent with BLM Manual 6840 (USDI 2008), the purpose of which is to provide policy and guidance for the conservation of BLM Special Status species and the ecosystems upon which they depend on BLM-administered lands. BLM Special Status species include those species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as those designated as Bureau Sensitive by the State Director(s). The objectives of the BLM Special Status policy are: To conserve and/or recover ESA-listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend so that ESA protections are no longer needed for these species; and to initiate proactive conservation<sup>1</sup> measures that reduces or eliminates threats to Bureau Sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the ESA (USDI 2008: section 0.02).

This decision is also 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 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 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 of 1990, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR § 46.205(c)) require that any action that is normally categorically excluded must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR § 46.215. An action would meet one of the extraordinary circumstances if the action may:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b><u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u></b>
( )	(X)	1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
( )	(X)	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.
( )	(X)	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Conservation: as applied to Bureau sensitive species, is the use of programs, plans, and management practices to reduce or eliminate threats affecting the status of the species, or improve the condition of the species' habitat on BLM-administered lands (USDI 2008, Glossary p. 2).

- ( ) (X) 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.
- ( ) (X) 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- ( ) (X) 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).
- ( ) (X) 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ( ) (X) 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.
- ( ) (X) 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- ( ) (X) 10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- ( ) (X) 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).
- ( ) (X) 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).

**COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA**

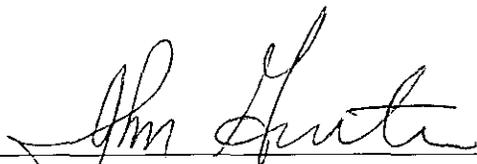
In accordance with 43 CFR §§ 46.205(c) and 46.215, the proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria above and I have determined that none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR § 46.205(c) apply to this project. The project qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 C (2), which allows for “*removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured, or which constitute a safety hazard...*”).

**DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND REVIEW**

Chris Volpe	Fisheries Biologist	3/6/14
Prepared by	Title	Date
Stephanie Kelleher	Environmental Coordinator	4/8/14
Reviewed & Edited by	Title	Date

**DECISION**

I have determined that the proposed action, which qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 C (2) involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to authorize the extraction of 6 trees (bole sections with root wads attached) along the 37-2E-24.5 road.



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John Gerritsma,  
Field Manager, Ashland Resource Area

Date

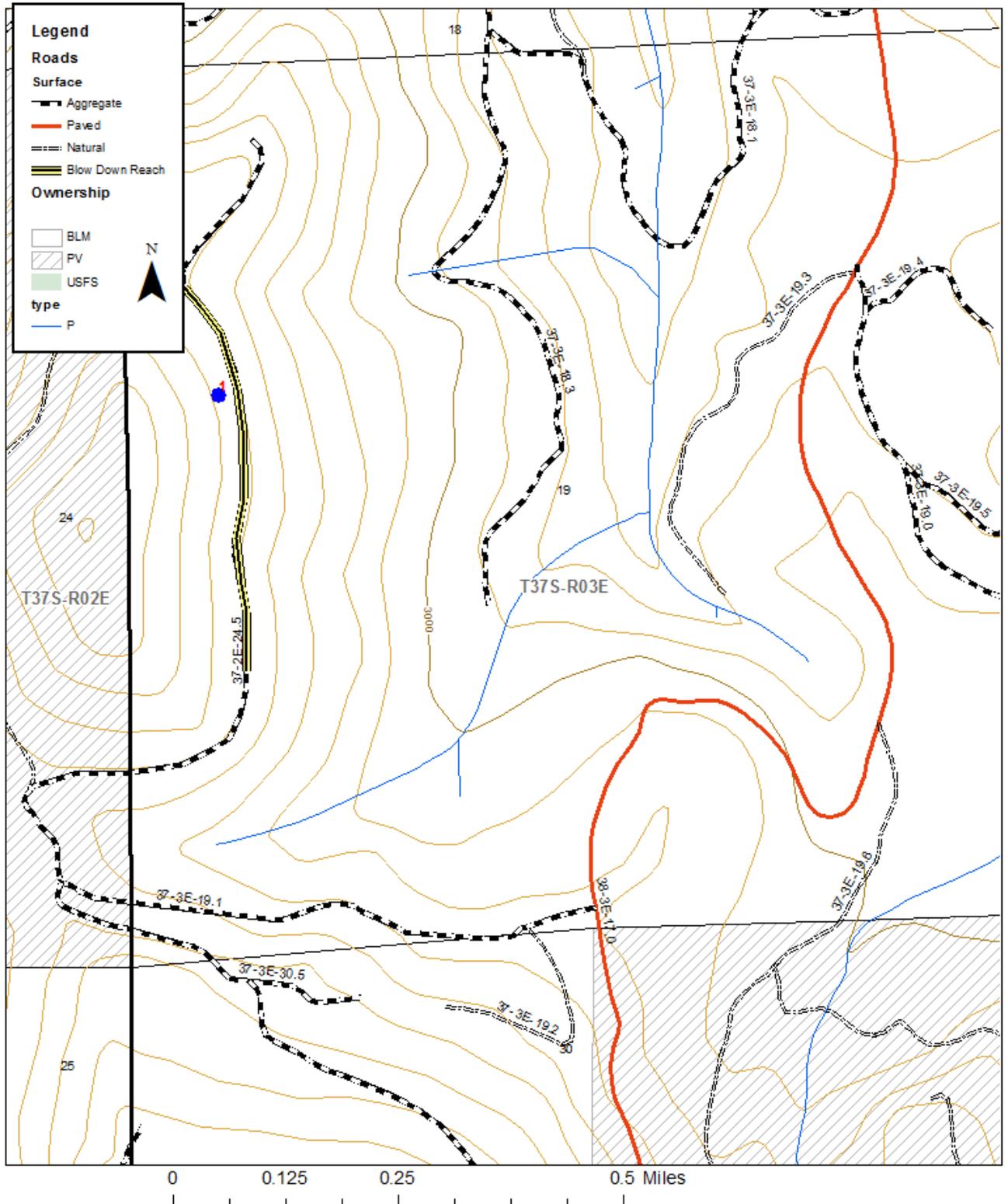
4/8/14

**ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

Notice of this decision 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.

# Appendix A

## Location of Blow Down for logs with Root Wads T 37S R 03E S 19



**Appendix B: Blowdown trees in the Conde Creek Area.**

