

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW & DECISION RECORD

(DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2014-0017-CX)

Project Name: O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit No. M-5086 (OR 68081)

BLM Office: Ashland Resource Area, Medford District Office

Contact: Tyler Lindsey, Project Leader at 541- 618-2275

Location: The haul route and affected roads are located on BLM administered lands in T. 38 S., R. 2 E., in Section 1. NE ¼, & T. 38 S., R. 3 E., in Section 6. NE ¼ NW ¼, NW ¼ NE ¼, E ½ NE ¼, W.M., Jackson County, Oregon (Exhibit A).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District BLM proposes to issue an O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit to a private land owner, under the provisions of 43 CFR Subpart 2812, and P.L. 94-579; 90 Stat 2743. This has been designated as Permit No.M-5086 (OR 068081). The requested period of use is for 3 Months, with the possibility of one-month extensions at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. The permit will allow commercial hauling of approximately 75 MBF of private timber over existing BLM roads. Utilization of these roads would, by itself, not facilitate any ground-disturbing actions on federal lands. The permit would not be a determining factor as to whether ground-disturbing actions would occur on private lands.

The following table identifies the BLM roads to be used, estimated timber volumes to be hauled over each road and the anticipated haul periods:

BLM Roads to be Used						
BLM Road and Segment No.	Seg. Length	Length to be Used	Present Surface Type	Haul Period	Estimated Timber Volume to be Hauled (MBF)	Estimated Mineral Volume to be Hauled (CY)
37-2E-13.0 H	0.58	0.32	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-1.50	0.40	0.40	NAT	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 A	0.25	0.25	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 B	0.37	0.37	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 C	0.28	0.28	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 D	0.14	0.14	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 E	0.15	0.15	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 F	0.03	0.03	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-11.0 G	0.48	0.48	ASC	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-27.0 C3	1.15	1.15	BST	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-27.0 D1	1.50	1.50	BST	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-27.0 D2	1.28	1.28	BST	Summer 2014	25	0
38-2E-27.0 D3	0.47	0.47	BST	Summer 2014	25	0
38-3E-5.00	1.46	1.46	ASC	Summer 2014	50	0
38-3E-5.03	0.13	0.13	NAT	Summer 2014	50	0
38-3E-17.00 A	2.47	2.47	BST	Summer 2014	50	0
38-3E-17.00 B	1.27	1.27	BST	Summer 2014	50	0
38-3E-17.00 C1	0.55	0.55	BST	Summer 2014	50	0
38-3E-17.00 C2	1.05	0.40	BST	Summer 2014	50	0

The Permittee agrees to comply with the following environmental and safety stipulations as required project design features:

- The Permittee shall discontinue hauling under this permit upon written notice of the Authorized Officer that such operations are causing damage to the existing facilities.
- Use of the road under this permit is limited to Dry Weather Use generally from May 15 to October 15. This restriction could be waived by the authorized officer, in consultation with a watershed specialist, under dry conditions.
- Suspend hauling during periods of precipitation or when precipitation is imminent.
- All soil disturbance associated with road drainage improvement shall be within the existing road right-of-way.
- Any ground disturbance within Riparian Reserves 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.
- Retain ground vegetation on cut and fill slopes in order to reduce surface erosion and maintain slope stability unless it poses a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities. Where roadside vegetation removal is necessary, preferably cut roadside vegetation rather than pulling it out and disturbing the soil.
- Avoid blading and vegetation removal unless necessary to remove drainage impediments when maintaining inboard ditches. Control sediment by spreading weed-free straw in ditchlines where ditchline blading is required within 100 feet of streams.
- Avoid undercutting the toe of cutslopes and sidecasting. Sidecasting of material shall not occur within 200 feet of streams.
- No road blading on BLM road 38-3E-5.03 (unsurfaced). This road has two marginally effective rolling dips. Blading would likely render them ineffective and increase the likelihood of road and resource damage.
- To prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds: prior to entering BLM lands, equipment (i.e. yarders, loaders) will be washed and devoid of mud and debris that could harbor noxious weed seeds, and the permittee will only utilize the existing road prism for commercial hauling.
- 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.

This project is not a habitat-disturbing activity, as defined in page 22 of the Standards and Guidelines of the *2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines*, for any Survey and Manage species. Because the project is not habitat-disturbing, the Survey and Manage provisions, including pre-disturbance surveys, are not required (Standards and Guidelines, p. 7, 21-22).

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 conservation¹ 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:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u>
()	(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.
()	(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. (<i>40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)</i>).

¹ **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) 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

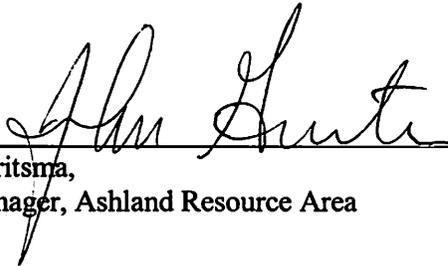
In accordance with 43 CFR §§ 46.205(c) and 46.215, the proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria above and I have determined that none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR § 46.205(c) apply to this project. The project qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 E (16) which allows for the *“issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.”*

DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND REVIEW

Tyler Lindsey	O&C Right of Way Specialist	4/14/14
Prepared by	Title	Date
Stephanie Kelleher	Environmental Coordinator	5/14/14
Reviewed & Edited by	Title	Date

DECISION

I have determined that the proposed action, which qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 E (16), involves no significant impact to the human environment and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to authorize the issuance of the O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit No. M-5086, OR 68081, to the private land owner. Notice of this decision will be posted on the District internet website.



John Gerritsma,
Field Manager, Ashland Resource Area

5/14/14
Date

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

This is a lands decision on a right-of-way action in accordance with BLM regulations under 43 CFR Part 2812. All BLM decisions under 43 CFR 2812 will become effective on the day after the expiration of the appeal period (30 days after this decision is signed) where no petition for a stay is filed, or 45 days after the expiration of the appeal period where a timely petition for a stay is filed, unless the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals or an Appeals Board has determined otherwise in accordance with specified standards enumerated in 43 CFR 4.21 (b).