

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance & NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
for
Ashland Resource Area's
Wolf Hazard Tree Removal Project**

**Under the Medford District Programmatic CX and Decision Record for Hazardous Tree
Felling/Removal (2011-2013):
DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2011-0004-CX**

A. Describe the Proposed Action:

This project will remove hazard trees and utilize dead or dying timber within one tree length of the lower part of Deming Gulch Road, 39-2-8, and adjacent to developed facilities or private property on BLM lands within the Medford District. The length of road to be managed for hazard trees is approximately 1.75 miles. Only trees identified as hazardous by the Field Guide for Danger Tree Identification and Response (Toupin et al. 2008)¹ will be removed.

The project is limited to removing trees within one tree length on either side of the lower part of road 39-2-8, or adjacent to developed facilities or private property, and the tree is identified as a hazardous tree. Trees will be left on site as coarse woody debris, or sold as firewood or saw-timber.

Felled trees will be removed and sold commercially **only** when the tree is not needed on site for coarse woody debris. Coarse woody debris retention levels will adhere to the requirements for the particular land-use allocation in which it is located.

Trees identified for commercial sale will be yarded to the road using a cable winch and hauled using a self-loading log truck. Mechanized equipment will not be allowed off the road surface. Directional falling will be used to the extent possible to minimize disturbance to the ground.

The location of the project is along the lower section of Deming Gulch Road (Road 39-2-8) in southwest Oregon, Jackson County. Legal Description: T39S R2W, SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 8, S ½ SW ¼, SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 9, SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 10, NE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 15.

The proposed action will incorporate all appropriate project design features included in the Categorical Exclusion for the *Hazardous Tree Removal within the Medford District BLM* (May 2011).

The following project design feature shall be included in addition to the above mentioned project design features.

- If during project implementation the Sterling Ditch or the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail are damaged, it is the responsibility of the contractor to re-contour the trail and/or the ditch to BLM specifications.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the following plans:

¹ Toupin, R., G. Filip. T. Erkert, M. Barger. 2008. Field Guide for Danger Tree Identification and Response. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region and USDI Bureau of Land Management.

- 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 Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, and Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (EIS, 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)
- Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (FSEIS, 2000 and ROD, 2001), as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

*The Medford District initiated planning and design for this project to conform and be consistent with the District's 1995 RMP. Following the March 31, 2011 decision by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Douglas Timber Operators et al. v. Salazar, which vacated and remanded the administrative withdrawal of the District's 2008 ROD and RMP, we evaluated this project for consistency with both the 1995 RMP and the 2008 ROD and RMP. Based upon this review, the project contains some design features not mentioned specifically in the 2008 ROD and RMP. The 2008 ROD and RMP did not preclude use of these design features, and the use of these design features is clearly consistent with the goals and objectives in the 2008 ROD and RMP. Accordingly, this project is consistent with the Medford District's 1995 RMP and the 2008 ROD/RMP objectives to provide for the safety of forest users by removing hazard trees along utility right-of-ways, roads, recreation areas and other developed areas on BLM-administered lands. This proposal is also in compliance 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 of 1973 (ESA), the Clean Water Act of 1987 (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996) (SDWA), Clean Air Act of 1990, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

The following documents cover the proposed action:

- The Categorical Exclusion Review and Decision Record for the *Hazardous Tree Felling/Removal within the Medford District BLM*, (May 2011).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action within the same analysis area of the previously analyzed project?** The *Hazardous Tree Felling/Removal within the Medford District BLM* Categorical Exclusion (CE) Review listed above, analyzed programmatically activities for reducing hazardous trees along open roadways across the Medford District BLM. This site-specific project includes falling, yarding, and hauling merchantable hazard trees along Deming Gulch Road. Project design features required under the above referenced CE are included in this project.
- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?** The range of alternatives analyzed in the above CE is appropriate with respect to the current proposed action.

3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?** This project is consistent with the suite of activities analyzed in the above referenced CE. The project proponent planning and overseeing the implementation of this site-specific project sent a detailed description of the proposed action to resource specialists according to the specified time frame (10 days prior to implementation). Resource specialists reviewed the design of this project against those documented in the above referenced CE and found the existing analysis to be valid for this proposed action.
4. **Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?** The interdisciplinary team approach was used in evaluating the proposed action. The present methodology continues to be appropriate because the action is the same.
5. **Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action similar to those identified in the existing NEPA documents?** The ID Team planning and overseeing the implementation of this site-specific project reviewed the anticipated effects of this project against those documented in the above referenced CE and the effects disclosed are the same as those identified and analyzed. The Ashland Resource Area Cultural Resource Specialist, after consulting with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, included an additional project design feature to mitigate any adverse effects on the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, which is eligible for inclusion on the National Register for Historic Places. No other new information or circumstances would affect the predicted environmental impacts as stated in the above referenced CE.
6. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?** The Categorical Exclusion for the *Hazardous Tree Felling/Removal within the Medford District BLM* was made available for public review on BLM's Medford District Website in May of 2011.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: This document, which includes a detailed description of the project, was distributed to the appropriate members of the Ashland Resource Area Interdisciplinary Team for review and input within at least 10 days prior to implementation of the project.

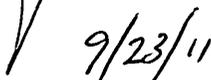
F. Mitigation Measures: Project Design Features (PDFs), discussed in Section A above, are included as part of the proposed action for the purpose of reducing or eliminating anticipated adverse environmental impacts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



 Signature of the Responsible Official



 Date