

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIEOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD

Sexton Summit Plant Site Fencing

CE# OR117-08-35

A. Proposed Action

The BLM is proposing to install a fence around a sensitive species plant site, *Silene hookeri*, var. *bolanderi*. The site is near the summit of Sexton Mountain. The summit is developed with communications equipment towers and buildings (Oregon Department of Transportation and sub-leasees) and an Oregon Department of Forestry fire lookout tower. A fence is needed to prevent damage to the plant site from construction, maintenance and upgrading of facilities by leasees.

B. Location/Land Use Allocation: Approximately 10 miles north of Grants Pass, Oregon in T.34 S., R.6 W., Section 24, SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄, on matrix land.

C. Need / Rationale for the Proposed Action:

The sensitive species plant site of *Silene hookeri*, var. *bolanderi* has been affected by construction and upgrading activities and a fence is proposed to prevent further damage to the site.

D. Description of the Proposed Action:

A two wire fence will be installed around the entire plant site to prevent further disturbance to the habitat. The fence will be constructed of smooth, high tensile strength wire and steel T-posts. The fence will be approximately 400 feet in length. A more substantial fence is not required because vehicle access to the site is severely restricted; no public vehicles are allowed beyond the gate approximately 0.5 miles below the site.

Signs will be hung from the fence to inform users of the area and the purpose for the fence.

E. Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

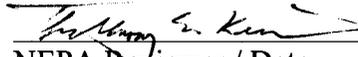
- (1) *Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (June 1995).
- (2) *Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994).
- (3) *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled 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 (NFP)*(April 1994).

- (4) *Final Supplemental EIS for Amendments to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (March 2000), and the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January 2001)
- (5) *Record of Decision to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* (July 2007)
- (6) *Medford District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment* (April 1998).
- (7) *Final Supplemental EIS for Management of Port-Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (December 2003)

F. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department Manual 516 DM 11, 11.5 E Realty – (13) *Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.*

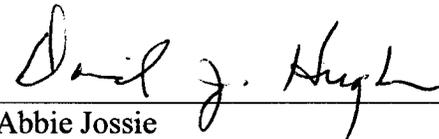
The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). None have been identified (see attached).

 8/11/08
NEPA Reviewer / Date

 8/15/08
Preparer / Date

G. Decision

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project as described.


for Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resources Area

8/12/08
Date

NEPA COMPLIANCE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
Sexton Summit Plant Site Fencing
CE# OR117-08-35

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

1) *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Yes No

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

3) *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes No

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

Yes No

5) *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Yes No

6) *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes No

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

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

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

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

Reviewers:

Tom Durr 8/5/08
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics
& Port-Orford Cedar Date

Ann Fitts 8/5/08
Botany Date

Mark Green 8/5/2008
Cultural Resources Date

Tom Raper 8/5/2008
Fisheries Date

Joe Ry 8/6/08
Wildlife Date

Dave Mauer 8/5/08
Soils/Hydrology Date

J.M. Kli 8/6/08
Visual Resources / Recreation Date

Jim Roper 8/11/08
Engineering Date

Tim Gonzales 8-5-08
Fire and Fuels Date