

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA
2164 NE Spalding Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record

2014 Water Source Maintenance Project

DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2014-001-CX

BLM Office: Grants Pass Resource Area, Medford District
2164 NE Spalding Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Description of Proposed Action

The Grants Pass Resource Area manages several water sources for use by fire engines, water tenders, and helicopters. These water sources are integral in wildfire suppression activities.

There are four existing water sources proposed for maintenance in 2014. The specific proposed activities are as follows:

Bonnie Rifle spring box and helipond - T33S-R8W-Sections 1 & 2

- Spring Box:
 - 1/10 acre of brush and small saplings (less than 8 inches diameter breast height (dbh)) would be removed. Tree species to be cut would be mostly hardwoods and possibly a few Douglas-fir saplings.
 - The spring box catchment would be replaced. The existing pipeline to the helipond would be elevated or replaced. All activities would occur on pre-existing disturbed ground.
- Helipond or Helitank:
 - 1/10 acre of brush would be removed. Vegetation less than three inches dbh would be cut.
 - The helipond would be re-engineered below the natural surface grade and the containment dike would be removed within the pre-existing disturbed area.
 - Fill/level helipond area and install two 5,000 gallon helitank.

Bonnie Riffle Pump Chance - T33S-R8W-Section 11

- Brush and small saplings within the pre-existing disturbed area would be removed. Hardwoods to be cut would be less than 2 inches dbh.
- The existing culvert would be replaced to a minimum of 2 feet below the road surface. The catchment area would be reshaped within the pre-existing disturbed area.
- A culvert downspout would be installed.

Bonnie Creek Pump Chance - T32S-R8W-Section 35

- Less than 1/4 acre of brush and small saplings (less than 8 inches dbh) would be removed along the pre-existing disturbed area and road prism.
- The existing culvert at the pump chance would be replaced. Approximately 50 feet of ditch line, above the pump chance, would be re-graded and re-routed to direct multiple springs' seepage into the catchment area.
- A culvert downspout would be installed.

Skull Creek Pump Chance (Plum Creek) - T32S-R7W-Section 30

- This site is located on private land. Work would be completed through Secure Rural Schools Act (Title II) funding.
- Approximately 150 feet of the access ramp would be improved by applying gravel and grading the ramp. Approximately 1/4 acre of the pre-existing disturb area would have brush and small saplings removed (less than 8 inches dbh). Boulders would be added and/or redesigned to create a pool for drafting water.

Maintenance work would generally be performed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA), Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD), Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD), or a licensed Contractor.

Project Design Features: Project Design Features (PDFs) are specific measures included in the Proposed Action to minimize impacts on the human environment. All of the following would be applied as appropriate to the Proposed Action.

Fuels

- Slash resulting from brushing and clearing activities would be lopped and scattered, handpiled, burned, chipped, or removed from the site in order to prevent creating a fire hazard.
- Handpiles would be covered with plastic large enough to ensure a dry ignition spot and would typically be burned within 18 months.
- Handpiles would not be allowed on roadways, turnouts, shoulders, or on the cut bank.
- Handpiles would be burned in the fall to spring season after one or more inches of precipitation have occurred. Patrol and mop-up of burning piles would occur when needed to prevent treated areas from re-burning or becoming an escaped fire.
- Prescribed fire burn plans would be completed before ignition, as would smoke clearance to minimize impacts on air quality.

Streams and Riparian Zones

- Equipment refueling would be at least 150 feet from streams, ponds or other wet areas. Equipment would not be stored in a stream channel overnight. Hydraulic fluid and fuel lines would be in proper working condition in order to minimize leakage into streams.
- In-stream channel work would be restricted to between July 1 and September 15 (of the same calendar year) for the Umpqua Watersheds and June 15 and September 15 (of the same calendar year) for the Rogue Watersheds in accordance with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in-stream work period recommendations, except where the potential for greater damage to water quality and fish habitats exists.
- Replacement culvert design and installation would meet federal land management plans and ODFW standards (see Plan Conformance Review p. 5)
- During culvert replacement, flowing water would be diverted around each culvert or cross drain installation site whenever there is sufficient water volume. Diverted water would be returned to the channel immediately downstream of the work site. Effective erosion control measures (straw wattles, hay bales and/or silt fencing) would be in place at all times during installation, and would be removed from the channel prior to October 15th of the same calendar year.
- Excavated material would be placed on stable, non-floodplain locations as identified by the BLM Authorized Officer where it cannot enter streams or other water bodies. Erosion control measures would be applied at disposal sites to minimize sediment delivery to water bodies. If side slopes generally exceed 60 percent or where side-cast material may enter waterbodies, wetlands, or floodplains, excavated material would be end-hauled to minimize side-casting of waste material.
- To maintain slope stability disturbance of existing riparian vegetation would be minimized to the greatest extent practical.
- When conditions warrant, sediment control measures would be used such as straw bales, filter cloth, or sediment fences.
- To best avoid wet conditions, maintenance activities would be conducted during late summer and early fall.
- To maintain slope stability, the cutting of vegetation on road fill slopes would be minimized.
- Water withdrawal equipment would have a fish screen installed, operated and maintained in accordance to NOAA Fisheries.

Soils

- Work would be temporarily suspended if monitoring indicates that rain storms have saturated soils to the extent that there is potential for causing excessive stream sedimentation.
- To reduce potential erosion mulching would be done as soon as possible after excavation or ripping.
- A spill plan would be prepared. If a spill does occur, waste diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid and other hazardous materials would be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved landfill in accordance with federal regulations.
- Soil disturbance associated with maintenance work would be limited to the footprint of the existing facility.

Noxious/Invasive Species/Port Orford Cedar

- Heavy equipment would be washed at an approved location before moving into the federal project area to remove soil and plant parts to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and disease.
- Maintenance activities in areas of Port-Orford Cedar would follow the Medford District's Port-Orford Cedar management guidelines.

Wildlife

- Chain saw activities would not occur within 195 feet of a northern spotted owl nest site or activity center of known pairs of spotted owls from March 1 through June 30. Chain saw activities within 851 feet of unsurveyed potential, viable owl nesting locations would also not operate from March 1 through June 30. If surveys were completed to the point that the location of a nest beyond the disturbance distance or the absence of nesting spotted owls could be confirmed to Protocol standards, or if inspection of the area by a wildlife biologist confirmed that no nests could occur within 195 feet of the chainsaw use, then a seasonal restriction would not be required for the rest of that nesting season.
- Human disturbances that may disturb or interfere with raptor nesting would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of active nesting areas between approximately March 1 and July 15, of the same calendar year.

Cultural

- If cultural resources are discovered during project implementation the project would be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation or mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the Resource Area

Archaeologist with input from federally recognized Tribes, concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office, and approval from the Field Manager.

Plan Conformance Review

This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *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) as amended
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995)
- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004)
- *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)
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985)

The 2014 Water Source Maintenance 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.

Categorical Exclusion Determination

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department of Interior Manual 516 DM 2 Appendix 1, (1.7) “Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity; e.g. limited size and magnitude or short-term effects”; and 516 DM 11.9 (G)(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”.

Department of the Interior Manual 516, Appendix 2 provides for a review of the criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to this Proposed Action (see p.6-7).

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

Agency Consultation

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Consultation for the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was conducted and documented in the Brimstone/Stratton Fire Salvage, Hazard Tree Removal and Pump Chance Maintenance Project (Tails # 01EOFW00-2014-I-0105). The Water Source Maintenance Project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect northern spotted owls or northern spotted owl critical habitat.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Existing consultation for the Endangered Species Act with the National Marine Fisheries Service would be implemented because at two of the proposed sites, there may be an effect to listed fish species. Southern Oregon Northern California Coasts (SONCC) coho salmon and Oregon Coast (OC) coho salmon, both federally listed as threatened, and are present within this project area. These project proposals may affect listed fish but will not impact persistence of any listed fish species.

The proposed maintenance activities at three of the sites would have no effect on the SONCC coho salmon, OC coho salmon, or Coho Critical Habitat (CCH) because the sites are not located in or near CCH. However, at two of the sites, Bonnie Creek and Skull Creek, the proposed activities would be likely to result in a measurable increase in sediment or turbidity within CCH. The Proposed Action would apply the above PDFs and Best Management Practices (BMPs) of the Medford District ROD/RMP (Appendix D), as well as the Project Design Criteria for road maintenance and pump chance/helipond maintenance and use, as outlined in the Endangered Species Act Programmatic Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations for the Programmatic Activities of USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management and Couquille Indian Tribe in Western Oregon (April 21, 2011). The Programmatic also includes consultation for Essential Fish Habitat in the project area, as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The activities proposed within the project area are included in the Programmatic Biological Opinion, and no additional consultation is required.

Archaeological and Cultural Surveys

All required Section 106 cultural surveys of the National Historic Preservation Act would be completed for the fiscal year 2014 Water Source Maintenance Project prior to site implementation. All recorded cultural sites would be protected through the Project Design Features.

NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Extraordinary circumstances (CFR § 46.215) provides for a review of the following criteria for Categorical Exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the Proposed Action based on actions which may:

1. *Have significant adverse effect on public health or safety.*
() Yes (X) No
Remarks: All proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety.
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 (X) No
Remarks: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant impacts.
3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.*
() Yes (X) No
Remarks: Past experience from this type of activity has shown to have no highly controversial environmental effects or result in unresolved conflicts to resources.
4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental effects.*
() Yes (X) No
Remarks: Past experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.
5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*
() Yes (X) No
Remarks: Similar actions have taken place on the Medford District and there is no evidence that this type of action would establish a precedent or decision for future action.
6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*
() Yes (X) No
Remarks: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.
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 (X) No
Remarks: There are no listed or eligible sites on the National Register of Historic Places within the Proposed Action area.
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: Activates at two of the sites proposed would be likely to result in impacts to listed fish species and designated Critical Habitat for which the National Marine Fisheries Service has issued a Programmatic Biological Opinion. Project Design Criteria from this Programmatic will be implemented as required in the consultation. Implementing project design criteria will minimize the impacts to fish species and designated Critical Habitat. The actions proposed would not contribute to the degradation of any listed species.

The Water Source Maintenance project will have no impacts on listed wildlife species or any species proposed for listing. Additionally, this project has minimal to negligible impacts on designated critical habitat.

The activities proposed in this project have no impact on listed species or proposed threatened or endangered species or have an impact on designated Critical Habitat.

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

Yes No

Remarks: This project does not violate Federal, State, local or Tribal law or any requirement for the protection of the environment.

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

Yes No

Remarks: Similar actions have taken place on the Medford District and there is no evidence that this type of action would have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

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: No traditional use areas or sacred sites have been identified within the Project Area; no known ceremonial or religious sites will be affected by proposed Project Activities.

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: The activities involved within these project areas would not affect current populations of noxious weeds or increase the risk of introducing new sites. The Project Design Criteria incorporated into this document will limit the spread of noxious weeds.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MEDFORD DISTRICT
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA
2164 NE Spalding Ave
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Decision Record

2014 Water Source Maintenance Project

DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2014-001-CX

Description of Action

The Grants Pass Resource Area manages several water sources for use by fire engines, water tenders, and helicopters to aid in the suppression of wildfires.

The Proposed Action is to maintain four existing water sources:

- Bonnie Rifle Spring box and Helipond
- Bonnie Riffle Pump Chance
- Bonnie Creek Pump Chance
- Skull Creek Pump Chance (Private-Plum Creek)

Maintenance work will be performed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA), Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD), Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD), Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD) or a licensed Contractor.

Decision and Decision Rationale

Based upon the attached Categorical Exclusion, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action has been reviewed by the Grants Pass Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified in the attached Categorical Exclusion, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the Proposed Action involves no significant impact to the environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

Administrative Review

This decision is subject to protest by the public. To protest this decision, a person must submit a written and signed protest to Allen Bollschweiler, Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area, 2164 N.E. Spalding Avenue, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 by the close of business (4:30 P.M.) not more than 15 days after publication of this decision on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>. The protest must

clearly and concisely state the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

For additional information concerning this decision contact Mike Main, Fire and Fuels Management Specialist, 2164 NE Spalding Avenue, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526, telephone (541) 471-6526 or Leah Schofield, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone (541) 471-6505.

Implementation Date

If no protest is received by the close of business (4:30 P.M.) within 15 days after publication of this decision on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>, this decision would become final and may be implemented immediately. If a timely protest is received, this decision will be reconsidered in light of the statement of reason for the protest and other pertinent information available and a final decision will be issued which will be implemented in accordance with regulation.



Allen Bollschweiler
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

3 / 31 / 14

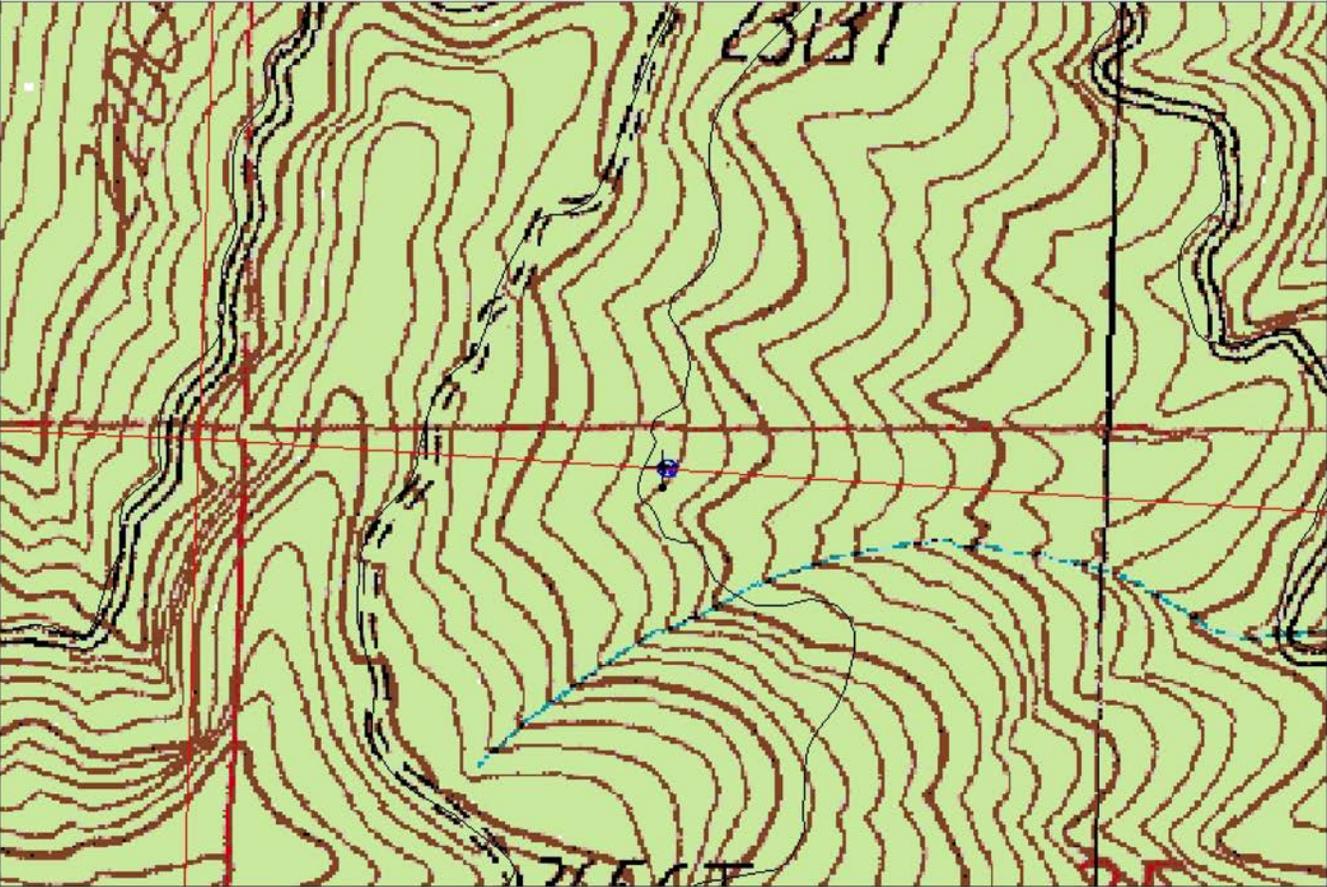
Date

Bonnie Creek Pump Chance

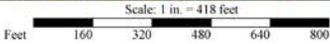


Legend

- Fire Water Source
- Lookouts
- Roads 24k
- Lakes



Location Information 12/11/2012
 Legal: T32S R8W S26, SWSW
 Latitude: 42°45'13", (42°45.2227' or 42.7537°)
 Longitude: -123°37'0", (-123°36.9939' or -123.6166°)
 10 Miles West of Glendale
 12 Miles West of Wolf Creek
 Elevation (approximate): 1470 ft.
 LandMark: Reuben, Mount, One Doe Spring
 Watershed 6th Field: Riffle Creek-Cow Creek
 Quad Name & #: RABBIT MOUNTAIN, 42123G5
 County and District: DOUGLAS, Douglas FPA
 Ownership: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District
 Taxlot Owner & PropID#: O & C Revested Grant, R61867



Forestland Classification: Timber
 Dispatch Blocks 21DS
 Magnetic Declination: -16
 Weather and Reg Use: 616, DG-2
 Raws Station & ID #: CALVERT PEAK, 352919
 BLM District: Medford District
 VOR: RBG - Brg: 188.369°, 28.3 NM, ROSEBURG, OR
 VOR: OED - Brg: 282.326°, 35.2 NM, MEDFORD, OR

Vicinity Map



Image Layer: Topography



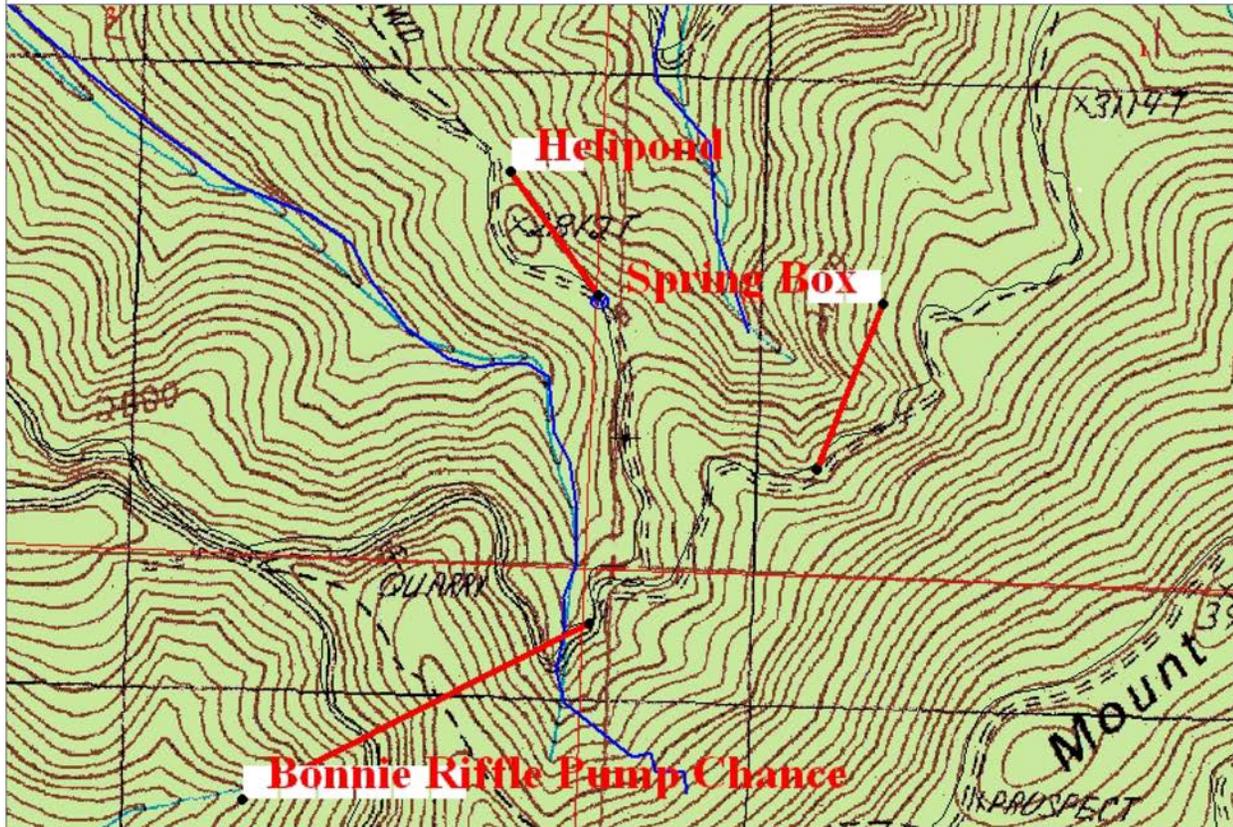
Oregon Department of Forestry
 Date Printed: 12/11/2012

Bonnie Riffle Helipond & Pump Chance



Legend

- Fire Water Source
- Lookouts
- Roads 24k
- Lakes



Location Information 12/12/2012

Legal: T33S R8W S1, SWSW
 Latitude: 42°43'35", (42°43.5842' or 42.7264°)
 Longitude: -123°36'8", (-123°36.1317 or -123.6022°)
 9 Miles West of Glendale
 11 Miles West of Wolf Creek
 Elevation (approximate): 2330 ft.
 LandMark: Reuben, Mount, Tib
 ett Spring
 Watershed 6th Field: Riffle Creek-Cow Creek
 Quad Name & #: MOUNT REUBEN, 42123F5
 County and District: JOSEPHINE, Southwest Oregon
 Ownership: Bureau of Land Management, Rogue River National Forest
 Dispatch Blocks 21DS

Scale: 1 in. = 759 feet



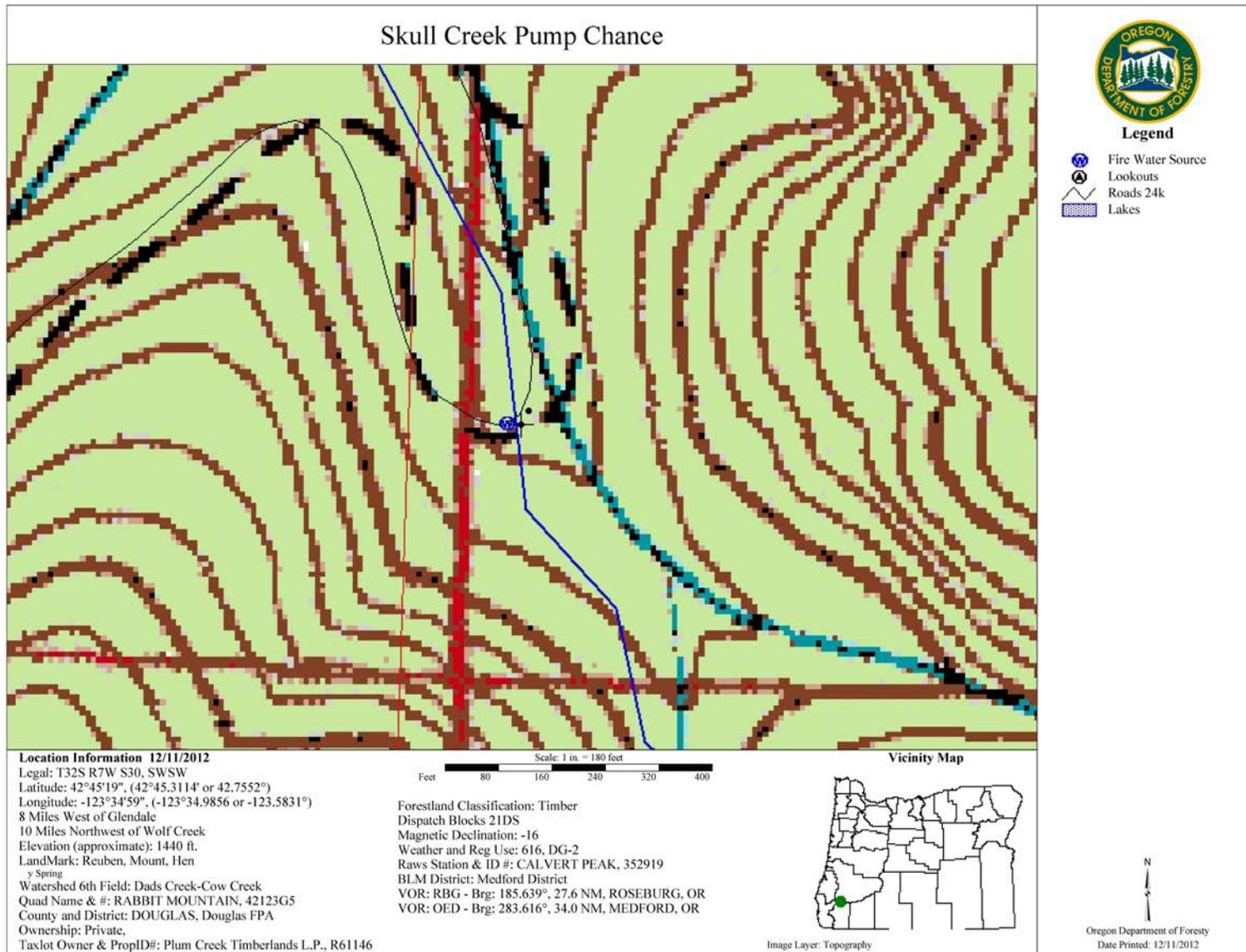
Vicinity Map



Image Layer: Topography



Oregon Department of Forestry
 Date Printed: 12/12/2012



Port Orford Cedar Risk Key Analysis for Water Development Maintenance Projects April to September 2014

(Risk Key is from Alternative 2 of the FSEIS for Management of Port Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon, and the Record of Decision)

QUESTION		BR Spring Box & Helipond	BR Pump Chance	BC Pump Chance	SC Pump Chance			
1a.	Are there uninfected POC within, near ¹ , or downstream of the activity area whose ecological, Tribal, or product use or function measurably contributes to meeting land and resource management plan objectives?	*Yes	*Yes	No	No			
1b.	Are there uninfected POC within, near ¹ , or downstream of the activity area that, were they to become infected, would likely spread infections to trees whose ecological, Tribal, or product use or function measurably contributes to meeting land and resource management plan objectives?	*Yes	*Yes	No	No			
1c.	Is the activity area within an uninfested 7 th field watershed ² as defined in Alternative 6	No	No	No	No			
		<i>If the answer to all three questions, 1a, 1b, and 1c, is no, then risk is low and no POC management practices would be required.</i>						
		<i>If the answer to any of the three questions is yes, continue.</i>						
2.	Will the proposed project introduce appreciable additional risk ³ of infection to these uninfested POC?	*Yes	*Yes					
		<i>If no, then risk is low and no POC management practices are required.</i>						
		**Management Practices by Road/Road System						
<i>If yes, apply management practices from the list below [within FSEIS] to reduce the risk to the point it is no longer appreciable, or meet the disease control objectives by other means, such as redesigning the project so that uninfested POC are no longer near or downstream of the activity area. If the risk cannot be reduced to the point it is no longer appreciable through practicable and cost-effective treatments or design changes, the project may proceed if the analysis supports a finding that the value or need for the proposed activity outweighs the additional risk to POC created by the project.</i>		<i>Mgmt Practice 2 & 11: For *haul route 32-8-35.2 & 34-8-1 rd</i>	<i>Mgmt Practice 2 & 11: For *haul route 32-8-35.2 & 34-8-1 rd</i>					

1 - In questions 1a and 1b, "near" generally means within 25 to 50 feet downslope or 25 feet upslope from management activity areas, access roads, or haul routes; farther for drainage features; 100 to 200 feet in streams.

2 - Uninfested 7th field watersheds are listed on Table A12-2 [of FSEIS] as those with at least 100 acres of POC stands, are at least 50% federal ownership, and are free of PL except within the lowermost 2 acres of the drainage.

3 - Appreciable additional risk does not mean "any risk." It means that a reasonable person would recognize risk, additional to existing uncontrollable risk, to believe mitigation is warranted and would make a cost-effective or important difference (see Risk Key Definitions and Examples for further discussion.)

*Activities within these sections should incorporate management activities regardless of POC occurrence within the individual stand due to access routes containing POC

**Management practices: 1) project scheduling, 2) utilize uninfested water, 3) unit scheduling, 4) access, 5) public information, 6) fuels management, 7) incorporate POC objectives into prescribed fire plans, 8) routing recreation use, 9) road management measures, 10) resistant POC planting, 11) washing project equipment, 12) logging systems, 13) spacing objectives for POC thinning, 14) non-POC special forest products, 15) summer rain events, 16) roadside sanitation, and 17) site-specific POC management

List of Reviewers

Water Development Maintenance
Projects

Routing and Transmittal Slip Date: February 6, 2014

Name	Initials	Date
Colleen Dulin	CD	2/21/14
Jason Reilly	JR	2/24/14
Jim Brimble	JB	2/24/14
Sarah Davison	SD	2/26/14
Rachel Showalter	RS	2-26-14
Cindy Wedekind	CW	2/26/14
Jon Raybourn	JR	2/26/14
NEPA (?) Ferris Fisher	FF	3-3-2014
Merry Haydon	MH	2-24-14
Mike Main (Last)	MM	2/26/14

Action: Approval, Comments, Clearance
 Remarks: Please review, intial and pass on
 Time Frame: Please return to Mike Main by
 Friday March 7, 2014.