



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ROSEBURG DISTRICT

**NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**A. Background:**

BLM Office: Roseburg District, Swiftwater Field Office  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd  
Roseburg, Oregon, 97471  
Phone: 541-464-4930

CX#: **DOI-BLM-OR-R040-2014-0001-CX**

**Proposed Action Title:** Andrews Creek Tree Planting

**Location of Proposed Action:** Section 3, SW1/4 NW1/4 T. 23 S., R. 6 W. Willamette Meridian, Oregon.

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The proposed action is to tree plant approximately 15 acres burned by the Andrews Creek Fire which began May 10, 2013. The fire burned approximately 30 acres on BLM land with half of the area affected by a stand replacement event that left little or no understory vegetation and killed most overstory trees.

The stand is approximately 50 years old and was commercially thinned in 2005. It is part of an occupied Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) site that has been designated as “unmapped” Late Successional Reserve (LSR) land use allocation. The area has previously had a significant scotch broom infestation and the seeds have been spread during the fire suppression efforts. Reforestation would reduce the potential for scotch broom to fully occupy the site and establish trees for future late-successional habitat.

The area will be planted during the winter (January-March) of 2014 with two year old Douglas-fir and Incense cedar seedlings. Paper mulches may be used to reduce competition from other vegetation and Vexar tubes will be used to reduce browsing on the cedar. The area will be planted in a mosaic pattern with the closer spacing along the edges of the burned area and wider spacing in the middle of the burn. Work will begin in January and take less than one month to accomplish. The attached map shows the unit proposed for tree planting.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance:**

The proposed action is subject to and in conformance with the 1995 *Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) approved June 2, 1995. This action is specifically provided for in the following RMP management direction:

*Silvicultural practice within reserves will be limited to those practices beneficial to the creation of late-successional forest conditions and would include reforestation, maintenance and protection of existing young stand. (ROD/RMP, p. 153)*

Survey & Manage

The Andrews Creek Tree Planting project area is either outside of a species’ range or does not contain suitable habitat characteristics that would trigger pre-disturbance surveys and management of known sites required by Survey Protocols and Management Recommendations for Survey & Manage Species.

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (C) (3) – “Seeding or reforestation of timber sales or burn areas where no chaining is done, no pesticides are used, and there is no conversion of timber type or conversion of non-forest to forest land. Specific reforestation activities covered include: seeding and seedling plantings, shading, tubing, paper mulching, bud caps, ravel protection, application of non-toxic big game repellent, spot scalping, rodent trapping, fertilization of seed trees, fence construction around out-planting sites, and collection of pollen, scions and cones.” 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 DM 2 apply.

**D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation:**

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: This project will have no impact on public health or safety.		
2.2 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.		X
Rationale: The project is not in close proximity to any Wild and Scenic River segments. No notable impacts are expected on historic or cultural resources. The project is planned to occur outside of the critical nesting/breeding season (April through August) and is not expected to impact migratory birds or their habitats; therefore, there would be no notable direct effects to songbird populations. Prime Farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or drinking water aquifers would not be affected. There will be no impacts to park or recreation resources.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: There are no controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning this project.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: This type of project is common and typical of other similar projects accomplished in the past in the Swiftwater Field Office. Environmental effects are considered usual and typical for this type of project.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This type of project is common and typical of other similar projects accomplished in the past in the Swiftwater Field Office.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This type of project is common and typical of other similar projects accomplished in the past in the Swiftwater Field Office. It is neither part of nor related to any other planned or existing projects.		
2.7 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.		X
Rationale: The project is exempt from normal survey requirements under the 1998 Oregon Protocol, Appendix A. The majority of the project area is steep and densely vegetated and the likelihood of locating cultural resources is very low. Previous survey in the northern section of the project area, where there is a higher probability of locating cultural resources, resulted in negative findings (CRS No. 049206). Furthermore, the absence of any historic properties indicates the project will have “no effect” to cultural resources. The BLM has completed its Section 106 responsibilities as guided by the 1998 Oregon Protocol and 2012 National Programmatic Agreement.		



**F. Contact Person & Interdisciplinary Team Reviewers:**

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact:

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Interdisciplinary Team Reviewers			
Name	Resource	Signature	Date
Trixy Moser	Project Lead/Originator	<i>Trixy Moser</i>	12-17-13
Julie Knurowski	Botanist	<i>Julie Knurowski</i>	12-17-13
Elizabeth Gayner	Wildlife Biologist	<i>Elizabeth Gayner</i>	12-17-13
Dan Dammann	Hydrologist	<i>Dan Dammann</i>	12-17-13
Molly Casperson	Archaeologist	<i>M Casperson</i>	12-17-13
Allie Barner	Soil Scientist	<i>Allie Barner</i>	12/17/13
Krisann Kosel	Fire and Fuels	<i>Krisann Kosel</i>	12/17/13
Jeff McEnroe	Fisheries Biologist	<i>Jeff McEnroe</i>	12/17/13
Ariel Hiller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	<i>Ariel Hiller</i>	12-17-13
Charlene Rainville	Realty Specialist	<i>Charlene Rainville</i>	12-17-13
Melanie Roan	NEPA Compliance	<i>Melanie Roan</i>	12/17/2013

