

Fallen Feline Salvage Decision Record

**Bureau of Land Management
South River Field Office, Roseburg District
(DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2014-0012-CX)**

It is my decision to implement the Fallen Feline Salvage Project which will salvage approximately 10 acres of blown down trees on Bureau of Land Management lands off of Wildcat Road (BLM Road No. 29-9-13) in the General Forest Management Area land use allocation. Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion (DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2014-0012-CX), I have determined that the proposed action will have no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

Rationale for the Decision

Harvest will take place outside of Riparian Reserves using a combination of tracked and cable equipment on historic skid trails and existing roads. Access will require no more than maintenance of existing roads at the locations displayed on the attached map.

Ground-based yarding operations will be restricted to the dry season, typically mid-May through mid-October, when soils are least susceptible to compaction. This operational period may be extended or shortened depending on weather conditions.

The project area occurs within the Zone 2 Seasonal Restriction Corridor of **marbled murrelet**. Implementation will occur outside of the critical marbled murrelet nesting period. No disruption activities, including the use of chainsaws and heavy equipment, will take place between April 1 and August 5, both dates inclusive. Between August 6 and September 15, both dates inclusive, daily operating restrictions will be in effect; operations may only take place two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset.

Implementation will occur outside of the critical **northern spotted owl** nesting period and is not in critical habitat. No disruption activities, including the use of chain saws and heavy equipment, will take place within 65 years of unsurveyed suitable northern spotted owl habitat between March 1 and July 15, both dates inclusive. No suitable habitat will be modified or removed.

This project is in compliance with the 2014-2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (Tails# 01E0FW00-2013-F-0200). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that the proposed action would not jeopardize the continued existence of northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet, and will not adversely modify critical habitat for the spotted owl nor will it adversely modify critical habitat for the marbled murrelet.

Evaluation of potential effects to special status (Bureau Sensitive and Survey and Manage Species) botanical and wildlife species was conducted. Botany surveys and wildlife habitat surveys (2014) were conducted in proposed treatment areas. No special status plant species were found. Likewise, habitat for Survey and Manage wildlife species was not present. No special status botanical and wildlife species issues were identified. The project is consistent with the Survey and Manage standards and guidelines as stated in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

Recent cultural resource surveys conducted in the proposed project area on moderate-to-high probability ground resulted in negative findings (CSR No. SR0612). Because no previously documented historic properties are known to exist in the vicinity, the proposed project will have "No Effect" on known cultural resources. If any objects of cultural value (e.g. historic or prehistoric ruins, graves, fossils, or artifacts) are found during the implementation of the proposed action, operations will be suspended until the site has been evaluated to determine the appropriate mitigation action.

All equipment will be pressure-washed or steam-cleaned prior to mobilization into the project area to minimize the risk of introducing soil from outside the project area that may be contaminated with noxious weed seed or other propagative materials. Any equipment removed during the life of the contract must be re-cleaned before being returned to the project area.

Protest Procedures

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision. Administrative remedies are available to persons who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. The 15 day protest period will be open for formal protest starting September 23, 2014. To protest a forest management decision, a person must submit a written and signed protest to the South River Field Manager, 777 NW Garden Valley Boulevard, Roseburg, OR 97471 by close of business (4:30 p.m.) on October 7, 2014. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and why it is believed to be in error, as well as cite applicable regulations. Faxed or emailed protests will not be considered.

For further information, contact Steven Lydick, Field Manager at the address above or call (541) 464-3211.



Steven Lydick
Field Manager
South River Field Office

9/22/2014

Date

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ROSEBURG DISTRICT
NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Project Title: Fallen Feline Salvage

CX#: DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2014-0012-CX

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

A. Background

Location of Proposed Action: South River Resource Area; Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 9 W.; Willamette Meridian (W.M.)

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to salvage blown down trees during 2012 and 2013 winter storms on Bureau of Land Management lands off of Wildcat Road. Salvage harvest would remove down trees from within two units of the 2008 Top Cat Commercial Thinning Categorical Exclusion (CX # OR-105-08-25) that have a combined area of approximately 10 acres. Approximately 200 trees would be salvaged in Unit 1 and approximately 15 trees would be salvaged in Unit 2 (see attached map).

In compliance with the 2014-15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (Tails# 01E0FW00-2013-F-0200) salvaged trees would only be removed in upland areas and within 400 feet from an existing road. No salvaging would take place within the Riparian Reserves. If a tree has fallen into a Riparian Reserve, the portion of the tree in the upland area would be bucked and removed, while the portion located in the Riparian Reserve would be left on site. Trees with snapped out tops would be left as snags. No standing trees would be cut unless they pose an operational hazard. Older down wood with substantial sap rot would be left on site.

Harvest would take place using a combination of tracked and cable equipment. Ground-based yarding operations would be restricted to the dry season, typically mid-May through mid-October, when soils are least susceptible to compaction. This operational period may be extended or shortened depending on weather conditions. Ground based equipment would utilize skid trails from previous harvest entries wherever practical.

The project area is located within the Zone 2 Seasonal Restriction Corridor of marbled murrelet, but outside of any designated critical habitat units. The proposed units are not located within suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat and the salvage would not remove any live trees that could potentially provide nesting habitat. There is unsurveyed suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat near the proposed units. In compliance with the 2013-15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (Tails# 01E0FW00-2013-F-0200), no disruption activities, including the use of chainsaws and heavy equipment, would take place within 100 yards of unsurveyed suitable habitat, between April 1 and August 5. Between August 6 and September 15 daily operating restrictions would be in effect; operations may only take place starting two hours after sunrise and ending two hours before sunset.

There is unsurveyed suitable northern spotted owl habitat adjacent to the proposed units. However, the proposed action would remove down trees in dispersal habitat; no northern spotted owl suitable nesting habitat would be removed or modified. In compliance with the 2014-15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (Tails# 01EOW00-2013-F-0200), no disruption activities, including the use of chain saws and heavy equipment, would take place within 65 yards of unsurveyed suitable habitat between March 1 and July 15.

Evaluation of potential effects to Bureau Sensitive botanical and wildlife species were conducted. There were no Bureau Sensitive botanical or wildlife species issues identified. Botany surveys (2014) were conducted in proposed treatment areas and no special status plant species were found. Surveys (2014) for Bureau Sensitive mollusks species were conducted in proposed treatment areas and no suitable habitat was identified. The project area does not contain suitable habitat or is located outside of the distribution range for the Siskiyou Sideband (*Monadenia chaceana*), Oregon Shoulderband (*Helminthoglypta hertlieni*), and Crater Lake Tightcoil (*Pristiloma arcticum crateris*).

Prior to mobilization into the contract area logging equipment would be steam cleaned or pressure washed to remove soil and other materials that could transport weed seed, root fragments, or other propagative materials. If equipment is removed from the contract area during the life of the contract, it must be re-cleaned and re-inspected prior to re-entry into the project area.

Survey & Manage

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued an order in *Conservation Northwest, et al. v. Sherman, et al.*, No. 08-1067-JCC (W.D. Wash.), granting Plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment and finding NEPA violations in the *Final Supplemental to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (USDA and USDI, June 2007). In response, parties entered into settlement negotiations in April 2010, and the Court filed approval of the resulting Settlement Agreement on July 6, 2011. Projects that are within the range of the northern spotted owl were subject to the survey and management standards and guidelines in the 2001 ROD, as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

On April 25, 2013, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated a portion of the 2011 Survey and Manage Settlement Agreement and reinstated the 2001 Survey and Manage species list.

The Fallen Feline Salvage Project is consistent with the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan as amended by 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* (2001 ROD). This project applies the 2001 list of Survey and Manage species. Salvage areas in Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 9 W., W.M. Based on surveys conducted in April of 2014, this project is consistent with the survey and manage standards and guidelines because:

- 1) No mollusk habitat is present within the proposed project area.
- 2) The proposed action is limited to salvage of blown down trees therefore modification or removal of red tree vole habitat would not occur¹;
- 3) The proposed action is not within 600 feet of natural openings greater than 10 acres that could be used as foraging areas and there would be no removal or modification of suitable great gray owl nesting habitat²; and
- 4) Surveys (2014) were conducted for Survey and Manage plant species. No Survey and Manage plant species were present.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is subject to and in conformance with the *Roseburg District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD/RMP)*, approved June 2, 1995, because it implements objectives and direction for timber resources to:

“Provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects or disease... (1995 ROD/RMP, p. 60)”

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) (2) – *“Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured, or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance of existing roads.”*

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, Appendix 2 apply.

¹ Huff, R., K. Van Norman, C. Hughes, R. Davis and K. Mellen-Mclean. 2012. Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole, Version 3.0. Portland, OR. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Regions 5 and 6. 52 p.

² USDA/Forest Service and USDI/BLM. 2004. Quintana-Coyer, D.L. R.P. Gerhart, M.D. Broyles, J.A. Dillon, C.A. Friesen, S.A. Godwin, and S.D. Kamrath. Assistant Ed. K. L. Garvey. Survey protocol for the great gray owl within the range of the Northwest Forest Plan. Version 3.0. January 12. 46 pp.

D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation:

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: Salvage would occur in rural forested areas managed for forest production, well away from urban areas, and salvage under such circumstances has not been show to pose a substantial risk to public 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.		X
Rationale: There are no unique geographic characteristics, historical or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, etc. that would be affected. Individual migratory birds may be indirectly affected, but these indirect effects would not have any discernable effect to the overall population. No direct effects to nesting adult birds, nests and eggs, or fledgling birds would be expected as the salvage operations would occur after the breeding and nesting seasons.		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
Rationale: The ROD/RMP authorized this activity, and as such, there is no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources.		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: Small scale salvage of blown down trees is a long-standing practice that has not been demonstrated to have highly uncertain or potentially significant effects, or involve 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.		X
Rationale: The proposed salvage is addressed in and authorized by the ROD/RMP. As such, this project represents implementation of a land use plan decision, not a decision in principle on future actions. Any future salvage proposals here, or in other locations will be subject to environmental review and documentation. Salvage, at the scale proposed, has been widely practiced on BLM and Forest Service lands throughout western Oregon and has not been shown to have potentially significant impacts.		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: The project is not related, in any way, to other projects with the potential for cumulative effects. The action will take place on existing roads in previously thinned units; Top Cat Commercial Thinning, analyzed in Top Cat CX 2008 (CX#OR-105-08-25).		
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: Cultural resource surveys conducted in the proposed project area on moderate-to-high probability ground resulted in negative findings (CRS No. SR0612). Because no previously documented historic properties are known to exist in the vicinity, the proposed project would have “No Effect” on known cultural resources. The BLM has met its Section 106 responsibilities under the 2012 National Programmatic Agreement and Appendix A of the 1998 Oregon Protocol. If any objects of cultural value (e.g. historic or prehistoric ruins, graves, fossils, or artifacts) are found during the implementation of the proposed action, operations would be suspended until the site has been evaluated to determine the appropriate mitigation action.		

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed salvage would not affect nesting opportunities for marbled murrelets or affect nesting, roosting, and foraging opportunities for northern spotted owls because salvage would be limited to blown down trees. Seasonal restrictions would be applied where activities would occur within established disruption thresholds to avoid disturbance during critical nesting and breeding seasons. Approximately 3 acres of Unit 1 are dispersal habitat within the home range of northern spotted owl site 20990.</p> <p>A natural geologic barrier located at least eight miles downstream of the project area impedes access to Oregon Coast coho salmon and dry season operations nullify potential effects of the proposed salvage on Oregon Coast coho salmon, their critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat. Proposed salvage would not affect stream bank stability or result in degradation and erosion of stream banks because there would be no activities within Riparian Reserves. Consequently, there is a negligible likelihood of any sedimentation occurring that could degrade water quality. Primary streamside shading would be maintained so that no changes in stream temperatures would occur. No effects to coho salmon, critical habitat for coho salmon, or Essential Fish Habitat for coho and chinook salmon are expected.</p> <p>Kincaid's lupine was not identified during surveys and salvaging identified blown down trees would not affect any known populations of special status plant species.</p>		
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed salvage project conforms to direction from the Roseburg District ROD/RMP for management of public lands on the Roseburg District. The ROD/RMP complies with all applicable laws, such as the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and others.</p>		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X
<p>Rationale: No potential impacts have been identified by the Roseburg District BLM, either internally or through public involvement, indicating the proposed salvage project would have a disproportionate impact on low-income or minority populations in Douglas County, Oregon.</p>		
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
<p>Rationale: No Indian sites of sacred, religious or ceremonial value have been identified in the resource area.</p>		
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).		X
<p>Rationale: Equipment used for logging will be required to undergo steam-cleaning or pressure-washing prior to introduction into the contract area in order to remove noxious seeds and other propagative materials that could spread noxious weed infestations. Any equipment removed from the contract area would be recleaned before being reintroduced into the contract area.</p>		

E. Signature:



Steven Lydick
Field Manager
South River Field Office

9/22/2014

Date

F. Reviewers and Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact:

Brennan Garrelts (South River Supervisory Forester)
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97471
(541) 464-3363

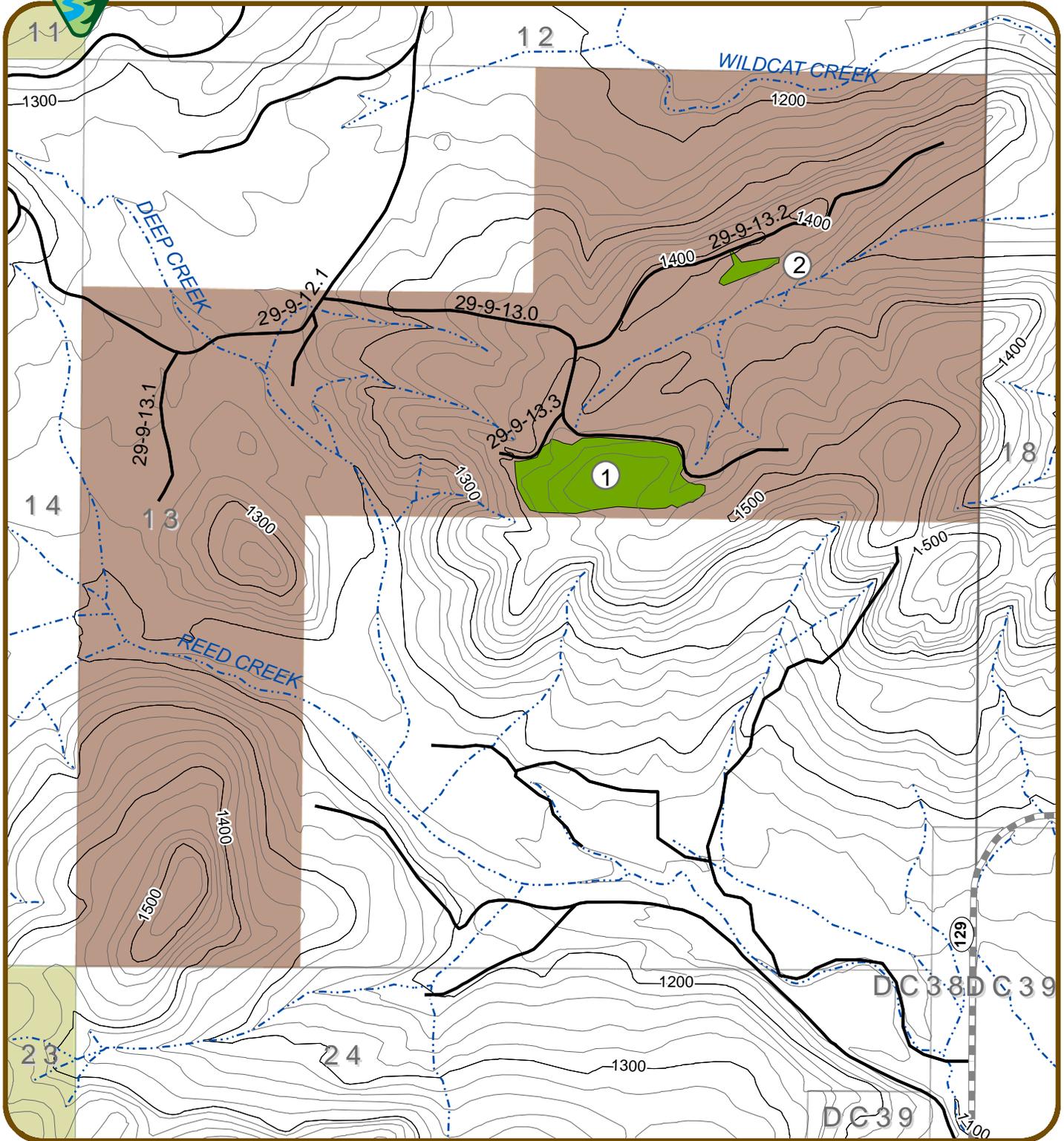
Name	Specialty	Signature	Date
Brennan Garrelts	Project Lead		9/17/14
Molly Casperson	Archeology		9/17/14
Aaron Roe	Botanist		9/17/14
Steve Clark	Fisheries Biologist		9/17/14
Sidney Post	Hydrology		9/17/14
Ward Fong	Soils		9/18/14
Summer Cross	Wildlife Biologist		9/17/14



Fallen Feline Salvage

R09W

R08W



R09W

R08W

Legend

-  Salvage Unit
-  County Road
-  Existing Road
-  Stream
- Land Use Allocations**
-  General Forest Management Area
-  Late Successional Reserve



Date: 9/12/2014

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