

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

DECISION RECORD

BLM Office: Roseburg District, Swiftwater Field Office CX#: **DOI-BLM-OR-R040-2014-0011-CX**
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Roseburg, Oregon, 97471
Phone: 541-464-4930

Proposed Action Title: Harness Mountain Quarry Operations

Location and Description of Proposed Action:

The Harness Mountain Quarry is located in Section 01, Township 24 South, Range 4 West, W. M. on BLM-administered lands in the General Forest Management Area land use allocation. The quarry is designated non-forest land and identified as a community pit.

Decision: Based upon the attached Categorical Exclusion, I have determined that the proposed operations in the Harness Mountain Quarry involve no significant impacts to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

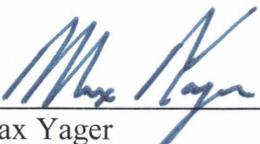
It is my decision to implement blasting and rock crushing operations within the existing Harness Mountain Quarry to provide rock for the development and maintenance of roads and other purposes.

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 protest period will be open for formal protest for 15 days starting on October 3, 2014. To protest a forest management decision, a person must submit a written and signed protest to the Swiftwater Field Manager, 777 NW Garden Valley Boulevard, Roseburg, OR 97471 by close of business on October 17, 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 Max Yager, Field Manager, Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd. Roseburg, OR 97471, (541) 440-4930.

Authorizing Official: _____


Max Yager
Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

Date: Oct. 1st, 2014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

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This project proposes blasting and rock crushing operations within the existing quarry boundary, resulting in the production of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of material for the development and maintenance of BLM roads. The project is planned to take place in Fiscal Year 2015.

Design Features:

To avoid disruption to the northern spotted owl during their critical breeding season, seasonal restrictions would be required from from March 1st through July 15th, both days inclusive.

The project is consistent with the 2001 ROD and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, as incorporated into the District Resource Management Plan. This project utilizes the December 2003 species list. This list incorporates species changes and removals made as a result of the 2001, 2002, and 2003 Annual Species Reviews (ASR) with the exception of the red tree vole. For the red tree vole, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *KSWC et al. v. Boody et al.*, 468 F3d 549 (9th Cir. 2006) vacated the category change and removal of the red tree vole in the mesic zone, and returned the red tree vole to its status as existed in the 2001 ROD Standards and Guidelines, which makes the species Category C throughout its range. Details of the project surveys are described below in Attachment A. In addition, routine maintenance of improvements and existing structures is not considered to be a habitat-disturbing activity (2001 ROD and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures, Standards and Guidelines, pg. 22).

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:

Continue to use rock from existing quarries for construction and maintenance of timber sale access roads and other purposes (pg. 67).

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 2, Appendix 1, 1.7 - *"Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects)."*

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.

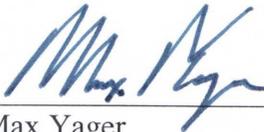
D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation:

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The location of the activity is within the quarry and is removed from urban/residential areas.		
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
<p>Rationale: The project area is not located in any park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, or national natural landmarks. There are no prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, national monuments or other ecologically significant or critical areas present in the project area. There would be no notable impacts to water resources.</p> <p>Special Status Wildlife Species: The Harness Mountain Quarry Operations would affect the Oregon shoulderband (<i>Helminthoglypta hertleini</i>), a Bureau Sensitive Species, through blasting and removal of habitat that the species may use as refugia during dry weather conditions.</p> <p>Other Bureau Sensitive Species do not require surveys because the project is either outside of the distribution range of the species or there is no suitable habitat within the project area. Thus, there is no measurable effect to the species or their respective habitat.</p> <p>Survey & Manage Wildlife Species: The Harness Mountain Quarry Operations project does not involve expansion of the existing facility and does not require surveys for Survey and Manage mollusk species. (<i>Survey Protocol for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species From the Northwest Forest Plan</i>, Version 3.0 (2003), pg. 11). The project is either outside of the distribution range of other Survey and Manage species or there is no suitable habitat within the project area. Thus, there is no measurable effect to the species or their respective habitats. (Table A-1).</p> <p>Migratory Birds: Guidance for meeting agency responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is provided through WO IB 2010-110 (August 31, 2010): Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory birds (MOU). The MOU provides guidance that the BLM shall, as needed, modify conservation measures to be more effective in reducing unintentional take and, as practicable, to restore and enhance the</p>		

<p>habitat of migratory birds (pg. 6). The Harness Mountain Quarry use would not remove existing vegetation used by migratory birds for nesting and foraging. However, the quarry operations that occur during the nesting and fledging season, April through July, may cause disturbance to nesting birds by causing adult birds to startle from nests or nestlings to pre-maturely depart from nests and potentially causing nest failure. However, the Harness Mountain Quarry blasting and rock crushing activities will not affect migratory birds at the population level within the watershed.</p>		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
<p>Rationale: The 1995 ROD/RMP established management direction to provide for operations in rock quarries. As such, there are no unresolved conflicts regarding implementation of this type of action.</p>		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
<p>Rationale: Blasting and rock crushing operations in quarries is a long-standing practice in western Oregon that has not been demonstrated to have highly uncertain or potentially significant impacts, or involve unique or unknown risks.</p>		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
<p>Rationale: Blasting and rock crushing operations in quarries is addressed and authorized under the 1995 ROD/RMP, and, as such, this project would represent implementation of that land use plan decision and is not a decision in principle on future actions. This type of project has been accomplished on BLM lands throughout Oregon and has not been shown to have potentially significant environmental impacts.</p>		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed action does not have a direct relationship with other actions and would not result in cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p>		
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
<p>Rationale: The project area has been inventoried multiple times for cultural resources with negative results (CRS Nos. 18908, 48812, SW9911). The BLM has met its Section 106 responsibilities as guided by Appendix A of the 1998 Protocol between BLM and the Oregon SHPO.</p>		
2.8 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: Marbled Murrelet: The proposed project (Harness Mountain Quarry Operation) is outside of the distribution range for the marbled murrelet; therefore, no effects would occur to the marbled murrelet or its Critical Habitat. Northern Spotted Owl: The Harness Mountain Quarry Operation will not remove or modify northern spotted owl suitable or dispersal habitat. There is no unsurveyed suitable habitat or known spotted owl site within 65 yards (disruption distance) of the project area and therefore, the project will not cause disruption to spotted owls during the critical breeding season. The nearest known spotted owl site is 0.8 miles (1,342 yards) from the quarry area. The Harness Mountain quarry is not located within designated Critical Habitat for the spotted owl and therefore, there would be no effects to Critical Habitat. However, seasonal restrictions would be required for blasting (disturbance distance) from March 1st through July 15th. Seasonal restrictions may be waived if surveys have determined non-nesting or unoccupied status by June 30th.</p> <p>The rock quarry is located well outside of Riparian Management Areas of occupied coho salmon habitat and designated Critical Habitat for coho salmon. Absent any interaction between the quarry expansion and occupied habitat, the action has no mechanism to affect large wood or other instream habitat features in downstream reaches.</p> <p>The Swiftwater area botanist has cleared the project area and there are no concerns for Special Status or Survey and Manage botanical species.</p>		
2.9 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 action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the 1995 Roseburg District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws, such as Federal Land Policy Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and others.</p>		

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X
Rationale: No potential impacts have been identified by the BLM internally or through public involvement indicating that quarry operations would have an impact on low income or minority populations in Douglas County.		
2.11 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
Rationale: There are no identified sacred, ceremonial or religious Indian sites in the project area.		
2.12 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
Rationale: Most of the project area has been treated previously for noxious weeds and would continue to be monitored for treatment under the District's weed management program.		

E. Signature:



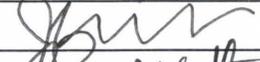
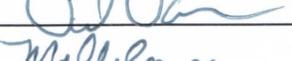
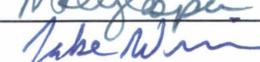
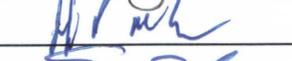
 Max Yager
 Field Manager
 Swiftwater Field Office

OCTOBER 1st, 2014
 Date

F. Contact Person & Interdisciplinary Team Reviewers:

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact:

Matthew Hatfield, Engineer
 Roseburg District
 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
 Roseburg, Oregon 97471
 Phone: 541-464-4930

Interdisciplinary Team Reviewers			
Name	Resource	Signature	Date
Matthew Hatfield	Project Lead/Originator		9/23/14
Johanna Blanchard	Botanist		9/22/14
Angie Worthing	Wildlife Biologist		9/23/14
Dan Dammann	Hydrologist		9/23/14
Molly Casperson	Archaeologist		9/23/14
Jake Winn	Soil Scientist		9/22/14
Krisann Kosel	Fire and Fuels		9/25/14
Jeff McEnroe	Fisheries Biologist		9/22/14
Erik Taylor	Supv. Outdoor Recreation Planner		9/22/14
Melanie Roan	NEPA Compliance		9/22/14

Appendix A. Survey & Manage Terrestrial Wildlife Species

Roseburg District BLM – Swiftwater Field Office

Prepared By: Angie Worthing (Wildlife Biologist)

Date: August 18, 2014

S&M List Date: December 2003, but with January 2001 ROD category assignment for Red Tree Vole (from IM-OR-2014-037).

Wildlife Species Survey and Site Management Summary

The Roseburg District compiled the species listed below from the December 2003 list (IM-OR-2014-037) and includes those vertebrate and invertebrate species with pre-disturbance survey requirements (Category A, B, or C species) and whose known or suspected range includes the Roseburg District according to:

- *Survey Protocol for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan*, Version 3.0, 2003 (refer to IM-OR-2003-044, February 21, 2003).
- *Survey Protocol for the Great Gray Owl within the range of the Northwest Forest Plan v3.0*, January 12, 2004; (refer to IM-OR-2011-063, Attachment 1-26, July 21, 2011).
- *Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole: Arborimus longicaudus (= Phenacomys longicaudus) in the Record of Decision of the Northwest Forest Plan*, Version 3.0, Revision November 2012 (refer to Memorandum from the Regional Interagency Executive Committee, November 27, 2012).

This list also includes any Category D, E, or F species with known sites located within the project area.

Applicable management recommendations include:

- *Management Recommendations for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusks*, Version 2.0, October 1999 (refer to IM-OR-2000-003, October 15, 1999 and to IM-OR-2000-015, November 23, 1999).
- *Management Recommendations for the Oregon Red Tree Vole: Arborimus longicaudus, Version 3.0* (refer to IM-OR-2000-086, September 27, 2000).
- Conservation Assessment for Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), USDA Forest Service Region 6 and USDI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon and Washington, Williams, Elizabeth; Klamath Bird Observatory; April 2012.

Table A-1. Survey & Manage Wildlife Species – Harness Mountain Quarry Use

SPECIES	S&M CATEGORY	SURVEY TRIGGERS			SURVEY RESULTS			SITE MANAGEMENT
		Within Range of Species?	Contains Suitable habitat?	Habitat Disturbing*?	Surveys Required?	Survey Date	Sites Known or Found?	
VERTEBRATES								
Great Gray Owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i>	A	Yes	No ¹	No ¹	No ¹	N/A	0	N/A
Red Tree Vole <i>Arborimus longicaudus</i>	C	Yes	No ²	No ²	No ²	N/A	0	N/A
MOLLUSKS								
Siskiyou Sideband <i>Monadenia chaceana</i>	B	Yes	No ³	No ³	No ³	N/A	0	N/A
Crater Lake Tightcoil <i>Pristiloma arcticum crateris</i>	A	No ⁴	No	No	No	N/A	0	N/A

*"Habitat disturbing" and thereby a trigger for surveys as defined in the 2001 ROD S&Gs (pg. 22).

N/A = Not Applicable

¹ Pre-disturbance surveys for the great gray owl are not required since (a) quarry operations in the Harness Mountain Quarry would not be modifying suitable nesting habitat or (b) would not be creating noise/visual disturbance within 100 meters of suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season. The required habitat characteristics of suitable habitat include: (1) large diameter nest trees ≥ 23 inches dbh, (2) forest for roosting cover, and (3) proximity [within 600 feet] to openings that could be used as foraging areas (*Survey Protocol for the Great Gray Owl within the range of the Northwest Forest Plan v3.0*, January 12, 2004; pgs. 12-14). The breeding season for great gray owls is February through mid-July (*ibid*, pg. 17). The Harness Mountain Quarry use is scheduled to occur after July 15th and prior to the onset of fall rains – outside of the great gray owl breeding season.

² Surveys for red tree vole are not required because there will be no habitat removal or modification within the Harness Mountain Quarry project area. Habitat for the red tree vole in the Mesic Zone, which includes Roseburg District, is described as (a) conifer forest stands with a merchantable QMD ≥ 18 inches dbh and (b) are either mature and old-growth conifer forests containing Douglas-fir or conifer or conifer-dominated mixed conifer-hardwood forests with canopy closure of intermediate, co-dominant and dominant trees ≥ 60 percent, and with two or more superdominant conifer trees per acre (*Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole: Arborimus longicaudus (= Phenacomys longicaudus in the Record of Decision of the Northwest Forest Plan) Version 3.0, November 2012; pg. 9*). There are no forest stands or conifer trees suitable for red tree voles within the Harness Mountain Quarry.

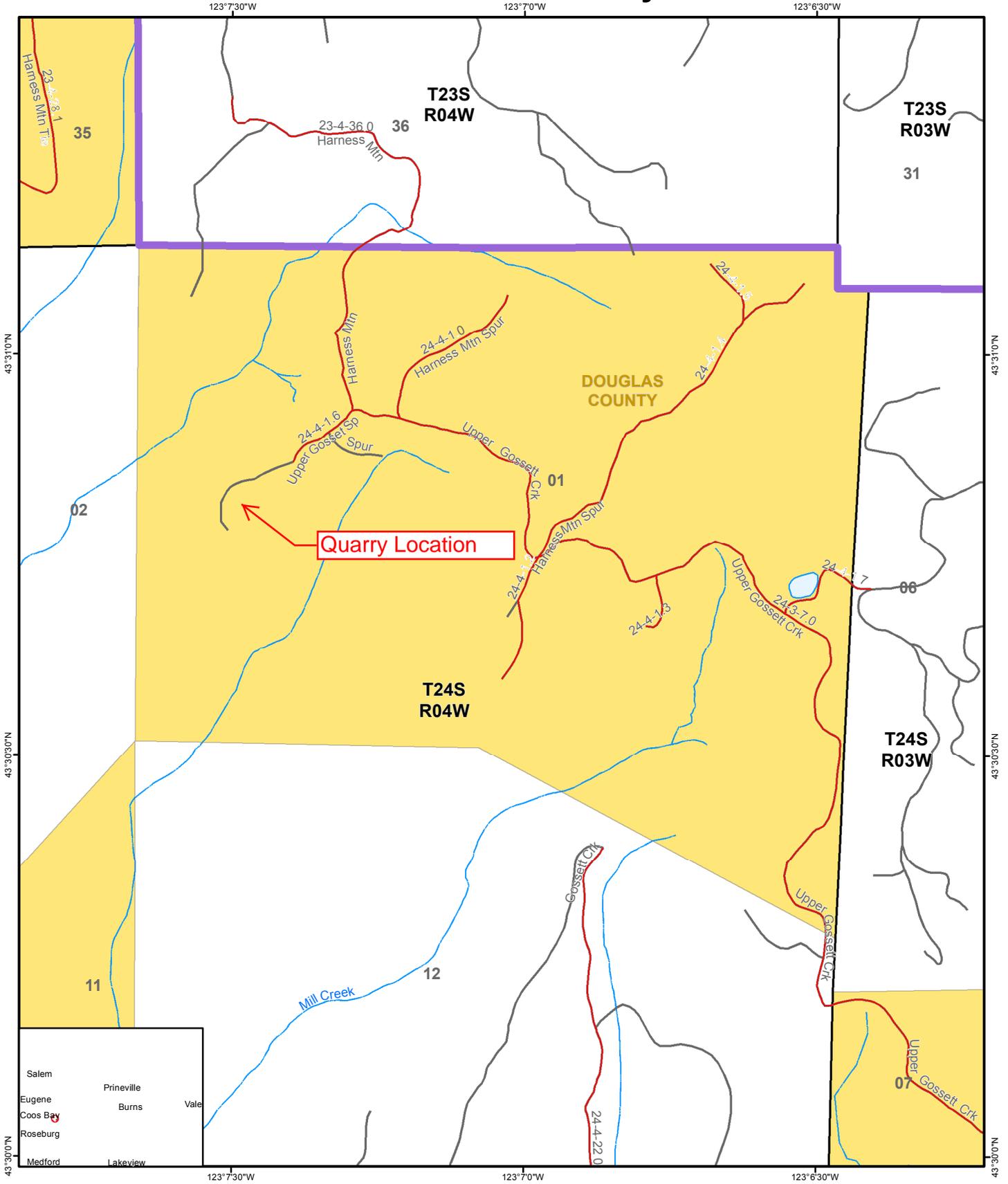
³ Habitat for the Siskiyou sideband may be found within 30 meters (98 feet) of rocky areas, talus deposits and in associated riparian areas in the Klamath physiographic province and adjacent portions of the south-western Oregon Cascades. Areas of herbaceous vegetation in these rocky landscapes adjacent to forested habitats are preferred. Areas that contain moist, shaded rock surfaces are preferred for daily refuges. In more mesic, forested habitats, especially in the Oregon Cascades, the species is associated with large woody debris and the typical rocky habitat is not required. Forest habitats without either rock features or large woody debris are not currently considered to be suitable habitat for this species. In addition, the distribution range for the species is Roseburg BLM (South River Resource Area) (*Survey Protocol for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan, Version*

3.0, 2003, pgs. 38 and 42). The Harness Mountain Quarry is outside the distribution range for this species

⁴Suitable habitat for the Crater Lake tightcoil is “perennially wet situations in mature conifer forests, among rushes, mosses and other surface vegetation or under rocks and woody debris within 10 meters of open water in wetlands, springs, seeps and riparian areas...above 2000 feet elevation and east of Interstate 5” (*Survey Protocol for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan, Version 3.0, 2003*, pgs. 39 and 43). The Harness Mountain Quarry is located on the east side of Interstate 5, and above 2000 feet elevation, however, there is no habitat within the project area, therefore, surveys are not required for this species.

Harness Mt Quarry

Date: 9/23/2014
Time: 11:03:16 AM



Section 01 T24S R04W



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|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Bureau of Land Management | Other Federal |
| U.S. Forest Service | State |
| National Park Service | Local Government |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Private/Unknown |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs | |



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