

Categorical Exclusion Documentation for All Projects Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Projects

A. Background

BLM Office: Tillamook Resource Area **Lease/Serial/Case File No:** N/A

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S060-2014-0012-CX Date: 8/4/2014

Proposed Action Title/Type: Routine Maintenance and Renovation to Restore Damaged Lands

Location of Proposed Action: Maintenance and renovation activities would occur in specific areas in T. 3S., R.5W., Section 19; T.3S., R.6W., Sections 13, 15, 21, 25, 29, and 31; and T.5S., R.7W., Section 8, W.M. in the Walker Creek, Bald Mountain Fork, and Jane Creek subwatersheds of the Nestucca River drainage; the Coast Creek subwatershed of the South Yamhill River drainage; and the Panther Creek subwatershed of the North Yamhill River drainage.

Land Use Allocation(s): Late Successional Reserve (LSR), Riparian Reserve (RR), and Adaptive Management Area (AMA)

Description of Proposed Action: Maintenance and renovation activities would include placement of boulders in approximately 14 locations on BLM managed lands to reduce or eliminate on-going resource damage, including but not limited to sediment delivery to streams, soil displacement, and loss of soil productivity caused by inappropriate Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use in sensitive areas; re-contouring and water-barring of severely rutted areas; and repair of an existing gate in an area designated as closed to OHV use; and seeding or planting disturbed soils where needed with native stock. Boulders would also be placed at approximately three strategic locations at trail entrances on the Upper Nestucca OHV Trail System to limit the trail width to 50 inches to accommodate OHV Class 1 and 3 vehicles only. See attached maps.

Boulders would be placed using an excavator-type machine that would also be used to re-contour damaged areas by means of pulling materials from rutted banks, reshaping slopes, replacing materials that have collected at the base of rutted areas, and build waterbars. Boulders would be moved by dump truck. Areas of disturbed soil would be followed by seeding of native grasses and further evaluated for additional planting of native shrub species by the resource area Botanist. Also, measures would be taken to repair and secure an existing gate that is intended to limit unauthorized access to the Bald Mountain Communications Site, a leased site located at T.3S., R.6W., Section 29, NW1/4SW1/4.

Boulders are currently being stored at T.3S., R.6W., Section 29. These will be loaded on trucks and transported to placement sites.

Project Design Features:

- **Soils:** Following boulder placement operations, areas that have received soil displacement will be seeded with native grass seed.
- **Vegetation Damage/Removal:** All operations shall be conducted in a manner which prevents further damage to or loss of vegetation cover. Cutting or clearing of standing trees, alive or dead, or clearing and cutting of shrub/groundcover for any reason shall require specific advance authorization.
- **Weeds:** Equipment will be power washed and inspected prior to accessing project areas.
- **Monitoring:** Maintenance and renovation sites will be monitored for introduction of invasive/non-native plant populations for two years after completion of the project.
- **Cultural Resources:** Archeological and historical values including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins,

historic structures, and artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed or disturbed. Any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations shall be left in place, and the Tillamook Field Manager shall be notified of their discovery.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance: The proposed action is in conformance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource & Management Plan (RMP)*, dated May 1995 as amended. Specifically the RMP directs the BLM to:

- Improve and/or maintain soil productivity (RMP p. 22).
- As directed by the Clean Water Act, comply with state water quality requirements to restore and maintain water quality to protect the recognized beneficial uses in district watersheds (RMP p. 22).
- Manage off-highway vehicle use on BLM-administered lands to protect natural resources, promote visitor safety, and minimize conflicts among various users (RMP p. 41).
- Adjust dispersed and developed recreation practices that retard or prevent attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. Where adjustment measures such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, increased maintenance, relocation of facilities, and/or specific site closures are not effective, eliminate the practice or occupancy (RMP p. 42).

The proposed action is consistent with the:

- *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standard and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April, 1994;
- *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (S&M ROD, January 2001)*;
- *Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis caurina)*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. June 28, 2011 (Spotted Owl Recovery Plan).

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 which allows for routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovation, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
2.1/ Have significant impacts on public health or safety? Rationale: All proposed activities would follow established rules concerning health and safety.		No
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, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas? Rationale: No unique geographical characteristics; or ecologically significant or critical areas exist within the proposed project area, therefore none would be affected by the proposed project.		No
2.3/ Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]? Rationale: Based on experience, this type of activity would have no predicted environmental effects that may be considered highly controversial nor are there any unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of resources.		No

<p>2.4/ Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p> <p>Rationale: The BLM has experience implementing these types of project which have been shown to be free of any highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>	No
<p>2.5/ Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: Similar actions have taken place throughout the district with no evidence suggesting that this type of project will establish a precedent or decision for future action. This action is a means to control and repair on-going damage to natural resources.</p>	No
<p>2.6/ Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects. There is no reason to think that this project would result in any such impacts.</p>	No
<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?</p> <p>Rationale: No listed or eligible properties are known to exist within the project area.</p>	No
<p>2.8/ 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?</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Fisheries: Work to eliminate sediment sources to in-stream fish habitat would have beneficial effects to water quality and fish resources. The damaged area in the vicinity of Coast Creek is occupied by Upper Willamette Steelhead an ESA listed species. Work to reduce damage and re-vegetate exposed soils will benefit this species. The Proposed action would have No Effect to Upper Willamette Steelhead.</p> <p>Wildlife: No potential impacts to ESA listed or proposed wildlife species or their designated Critical Habitats would occur as a result of the proposed project.</p> <p>Plants: Boulder placement and gate repair would help keep high elevation meadow habitat intact. No Endangered or Threatened Species are currently found but one of the largest upland <i>Sidalcea nelsoniana</i> populations is located nearby therefore blocking access will benefit the protection of meadow habitat in T.3S., R.6W., Section 29. The proposed action would not disturb any endangered or threatened plant species.</p>	No
<p>2.9/ Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed action would not result in any violation of any Federal, State, Local or Tribal law.</p>	No
<p>2.10/ Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed action would occur in a forested environment far from any human habitation, therefore is not anticipated to have any effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>	No
<p>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)?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed project should not limit access or adversely affect the physical integrity of ceremonial or sacred Indian sites on Federal lands.</p>	No
<p>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)?</p> <p>Rationale: Equipment will be cleaned prior to conducting any project work and monitoring of the work sites for two years after project implementation would identify any new weed infestations, which would initiate the treatment of any new invasive non/native plant populations, therefore the proposed action is not likely to contribute to the introduction, spread or continued existence of any weed populations.</p>	No

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 (see Table 1, above) apply.

potential for significant impacts.

D. Signature:

Specialist Review and Concurrence: None required or

Resource	Name	Initial
Aquatic/Fisheries	Matt Walker	<i>MJW</i>
Botany	Kurt Heckeroth	<i>KWH</i>
Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	<i>HU</i>
Hydrology/Soils	Chris Sween	<i>CRS</i>
NEPA Compliance	Andy Pampush	<i>ATP</i>
Recreation/Team Lead	Debra Drake	<i>DLD</i>
Wildlife	Steve Bahe	<i>SAB</i>
Engineering/Roads	Joel Churchill	<i>JJC</i>



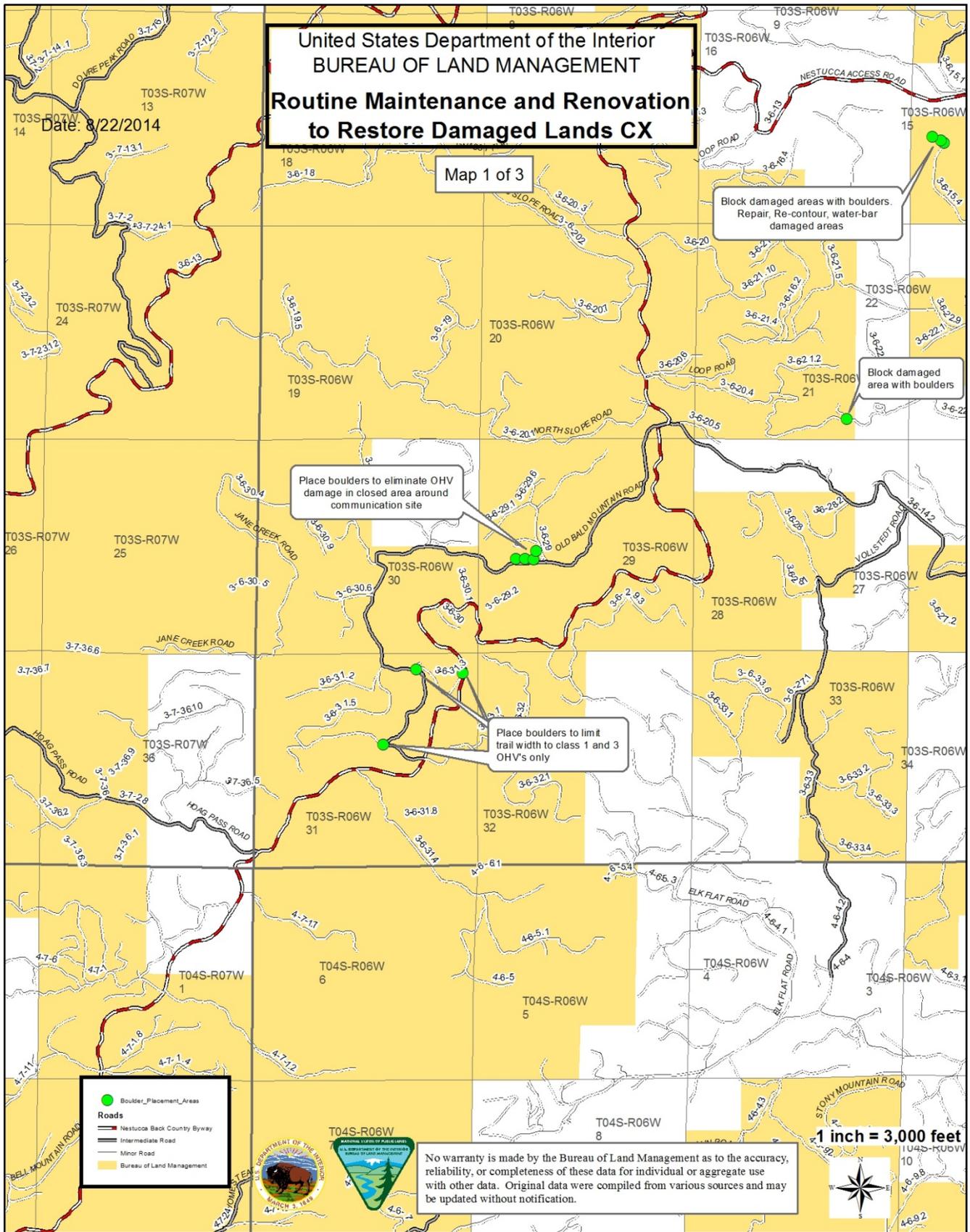
Authorized Official:

Name: Karen Schank

Title: Tillamook Resource Area Field Manager

8/28/14
Date:

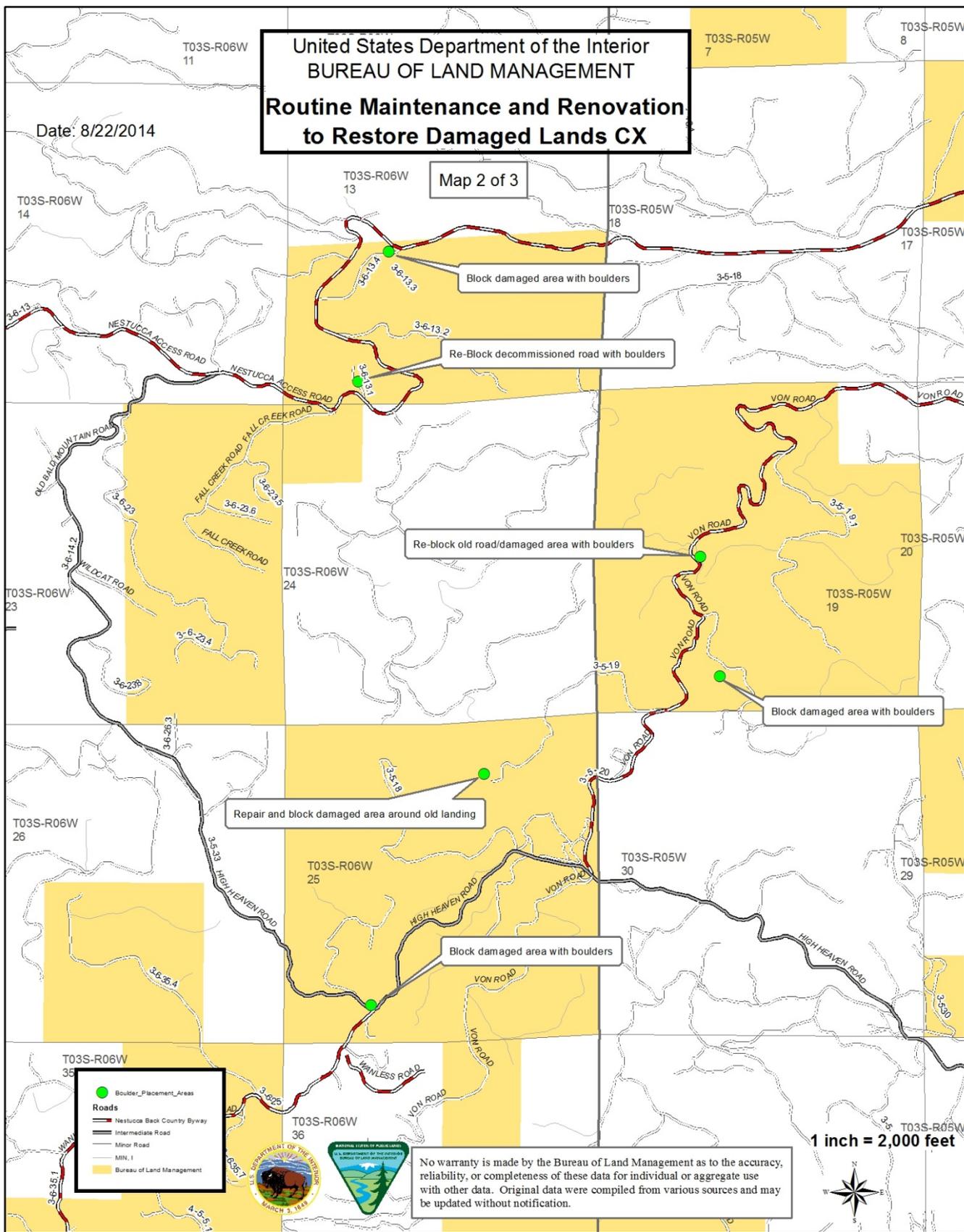
Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review contact Debra Drake, Recreation Planner, Tillamook Field Office Bureau of Land Management, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, Oregon at (503) 315-5948 or (503) 815-1134.



United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
**Routine Maintenance and Renovation
 to Restore Damaged Lands CX**

Date: 8/22/2014

Map 2 of 3



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
**Routine Maintenance and Renovation
 to Restore Damaged Lands CX**

Map 3 of 3

T05S-R07W
 6
 Date: 8/22/2014

T05S-R07W
 4

T05S-R07W
 7

T05S-R07W
 8

T05S-R07W
 9

T05S-R07W
 17

T05S-R07W
 16

TO
 18

- Boulder_Placement_Areas
- Roads**
- Intermediate Road
- Minor Road
- Undrivable admin road
- Bureau of Land Management



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

1 inch = 1,000 feet

Repair and block damaged areas with boulders

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT**

NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DECISION RECORD

**TILLAMOOK RESOURCE AREA
DOI-BLM-OR-S060-2014-0012-CX**

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed federal action is the Routine Maintenance and Renovation to Restore Damaged Lands by placing boulders, re-contouring exposed soils, waterbarring, and repairing a gate, in locations described in the attached Categorical Exclusions Documentation DOI-BLM-OR-S060-2014-0012-CX. The proposed action would reduce or eliminate sediment delivery to waterways, reduce soil erosion, improve soil productivity and prevent extensive widening of designated motorized trails.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

I have determined that the proposed action, which qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210 (f) and 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, 1.7 involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to authorize the placement of boulders, conduct site rehabilitation, and secure the gate accessing the communications site.

Authorized Official:



Karen Schank
Field Manager
Tillamook Resource Area

Date:

8/28/14

RIGHT OF APPEAL

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board or IBLA) according to 43 CFR Part 4 – Department of Interior Hearings and Appeals Procedures, found on the internet at:

http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=9d16677b49afdd7867e391952a2422f9&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title43/43cfr4_main_02.tpl.

Appeals can be made by those who have a “legally cognizable interest” to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized in this decision would cause injury, and who have established themselves as a “party to the case.” (See 43 CFR subpart 4.410). If an appeal is taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed with Karen Schank, Tillamook Field Manager, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141 by close of business (4:30 p.m.) not more than 30 days after the date of service of the decision. Only signed hard copies of a notice of appeal received in the Tillamook Field Office at the address above will be accepted. Appeals faxed, e-mailed, or sent by any other electronic format will not be considered. In order to request a stay of the decision, an appellant must file a petition for stay at the same time as the appeal in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4.21(b).

The Tillamook Field Manager plans to implement this project sometime after the 31st day beyond the date of the posting of this decision on the Salem District Planning web page which can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/index.php>.