

## Categorical Exclusion Documentation

### A. Background

**BLM Office:** Marys Peak Resource Area

**Lease/Serial/Case File No:** NA

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0004-CX    **Date:** 9/2/2015

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Marys Peak Resource Area 2015 Young Stand Silvicultural Activities.

**Location of Proposed Action:** Marys Peak Resource Area

**Land Use Allocation:** General Forest Management Area (GFMA) Land Use Allocation (LUA).

### Description of Proposed Action

Management of young (1-35 years old) forest stands in the Marys Peak Resource Area includes manual maintenance and pre-commercial thinning (PCT). In 2015, approximately 84 acres are planned for treatment, allocated as follows:

Manual Maintenance of 8 acres and Density Management/PCT of 76 acres. Maps and a list of site descriptions for 2015 proposed projects can be found in Appendix 1 and are filed in the Marys Peak Resource Area. Stands currently proposed for non-commercial treatment originated from reforestation with Douglas-fir following regeneration harvest (e.g., “West Botkin Regen” unit).

The *Manual Maintenance* portion of this project consists of cutting competing vegetation for conifer stocking maintenance and survival of conifer species in young stands (typically ages 4 to 12 years). The primary purpose is to provide sufficient light for survival of conifers and to increase growing space. In 2015, 8 acres (one unit) are proposed for treatment in GFMA LUA.

The *Density Management/PCT* portion of the project consists of thinning overstocked young conifer plantations 12 to 30 years of age to promote the health and vigor of the stands, provide more light to accelerate growth of selected conifers, and promote species diversity. The trees will be thinned to a 14 x 14-, 16 x 16-, or 18 x 18-foot spacing (approximately 222, 170, and 134 trees per acre, respectively) or to a variable spacing. The 16-foot, 18-foot and variable spacing will be used only on the stands greater than 20 years of age. In 2015, 76 acres (four units) in GFMA LUA are proposed for PCT treatment. The variable spacing will generally be done by cutting trees based on DBH measurements rather than on spacing. Trees up to 10 inches DBH may be cut to meet spacing/stocking objectives. Cut trees will be left on site. Gaps of up to 40 feet in diameter will result.

## Project Design Features

- To retain species diversity, the only tree species to be cut will be western hemlock, Douglas-fir, noble fir, Sitka spruce, cherry, red alder, and big-leaf maple that compete with the reserved conifer trees. All other tree species will be reserved. Species priority for selected leave trees will be noble fir, western hemlock, Sitka Spruce, Douglas-fir, big-leaf maple, and red alder, in that order.
- Red alder and big-leaf maple will be left if not competing with selected leave trees for survival. Hardwoods greater than 8 inches diameter at breast height will be girdled if competing with selected leave trees. Surplus hardwoods less than 8 inches DBH will be cut in a manner to minimize damage to the selected leave trees. Only brush which competes with the selected leave trees will be cut.
- Pruning treatment will be done with hand tools only.
- The slash will be pulled back 10–20 feet from edges of all roads and trails in units and to the top of all cut banks, or a 10–20 feet uncut buffer will be left where specified to mitigate fire hazard and scenic value concerns. In some units, the slash will be pulled back 20 feet from the edge of the existing landings and to the top of the cut banks. Additionally, where cutting occurs in south or west facing units, above roads and trails an uncut buffer or pullback of slash will be a minimum of 20 feet.
- To reduce the risk of a fire start (especially on south and west aspects), roads and trails through recently-cut areas may need to be closed to vehicle traffic during severe fire closure periods.
- For all units containing noble fir, contractors will be supplied a copy of a picture and description for the identification of *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* (noble-fir polypore). If *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* is located within a unit, all operations will be suspended in that area and contact made with the Marys Peak Resource Area botanist for further mitigation measures.
- Site management of any Bureau special status botanical and fungal and animal species found as a result of additional inventories would be accomplished in accordance with, BLM Manual 6840- and. *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).
- Resource Area Hydrologist or other qualified personnel will review proposed activities to define the affected areas.
- Appropriate measures will be developed to ensure protection of aquatic and riparian habitats during project design.

- A 20-foot, untreated or modified treatment area will be maintained along all intermittent and perennial streams and wetland areas to prevent any potential adverse effects to stream channel or water quality conditions.
- No refueling of equipment or containers larger than two gallons would be allowed within 100 feet of any standing or running water (SW 8, 9, SP 1, RST 10) (within 150 feet of any standing or running water if < 1 mile of ESA).
- Wildlife and fisheries personnel or other qualified personnel shall review proposed activity plans to define affected areas.
- Wildlife corridors may be identified for additional cutting or clearing along heavily used big game trails.
- To reduce potential for disturbance to marbled murrelets, projects activities occurring between April 1 and September 15, and within 0.25 miles from suitable nesting habitat, shall not begin until two hours after sunrise and shall end two hours before sunset.
- The Resource Area Biologist will be notified if any federally listed wildlife species are found occupying stands within 0.25 miles of the proposed units.
- If any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) is discovered during project activities, then all operations in the immediate area of such discovery shall be suspended until an evaluation of the discovery can be made by a professional archaeologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

## **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 (pp. 7, 11, 16, 17, 21, 32, 46, 47, 63, 71 & Appendix D) and directs the following:

- Conduct silvicultural activity in suitable forest stand according to management actions/direction.
- Control stocking, reestablish and manage stands and acquire desired vegetation.
- Apply silvicultural treatment to restore large conifer in Riparian Reserve.
- Implement silvicultural practice in LSR that benefit the creation of late successional forest habitat.
- Avoid disturbance to northern spotted owls and marbled murrelet.

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)

Watershed analyses in 14 of 16 watersheds have been completed from 1995 to 1999. The recommended actions within the watershed analysis support the proposed action.

### 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. 4 which allows for precommercial thinning and brush control using small mechanical devices.

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, below) apply.

**Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review**

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion?	Yes	No
<p><b>2.1/</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Silvicultural treatments will have no impacts on public health or safety therefore would have no significant impacts on public health or safety.</p>		No
<p><b>2.2/</b> 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?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> No unique geographical characteristics are within the project area or affected by this project.</p>		No
<p><b>2.3/</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The effects of these silvicultural treatments are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.</p>		No
<p><b>2.4/</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Silvicultural treatments are not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial, highly uncertain, or unique or unknown risks.</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion?	Yes	No
<p><b>2.5/</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Implementation of silvicultural treatments does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. See 2.4.</p>		No
<p><b>2.6/</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> There are no cumulative effects associated with silvicultural treatments; therefore there are no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions.</p>		No
<p><b>2.7/</b> 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><b>Rationale:</b> No eligible or listed properties are affected.</p>		No
<p><b>2.8/</b> 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><b>Rationale:</b>  <b>Fisheries:</b> Based on review of the proposed project no treatment units are adjacent to listed fish. Bummer Swamp treatment unit is located on an intermittent stream more than 1000 feet upstream of potentially occupied habitat of ESA listed Oregon Coast Coho salmon. With incorporation of 20 foot not treatment buffers next streams no effects to listed fish species would occur. No consultation is required for the proposed actions.   <b>Wildlife:</b> Potential for short-term noise disturbance is not likely to adversely affect breeding spotted owls and marbled murrelets. This action would include all applicable design standards as required by the Letter of Concurrence (#01EOFW00-2013-I-0190) which completed consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act and covers Disturbance type actions occurring between 2014-2017. No constituent elements of critical habitat would be affected.   <b>Botany:</b> Stands of this age are typically too young to support listed Endangered or Threatened or Bureau Special Status fungi, vascular, or non-vascular plant species, including Survey and Manage species.</p>		No
<p><b>2.9/</b> Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Silvicultural treatments follow all known Federal, State, or local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		No
<p><b>2.10/</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion?	Yes	No
<p><b>2.11/</b> 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><b>Rationale:</b> No new ground disturbance is anticipated. Past silvicultural treatments within this area have not resulted in tribal identification of concerns.</p>		No
<p><b>2.12/</b> 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><b>Rationale:</b> No ground disturbing action will occur. No increase in exposed mineral soil above the current level is expected. Subsequently, the risk rating for the long-term establishment of noxious weed species and consequences of adverse effects are low.</p>		No

#### D. Signature

Specialist Review and Concurrence:  None required or

Review Required	Review Not Required	Resource	Name	Initial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquatic/Fisheries	Scott Snedaker	SMS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Botany	Charity Glade	CBG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	HAU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Soils	Douglass Fitting	DWF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEPA Compliance	Stefanie Larew	SNL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	Debra Drake	DLD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Team Lead/Silviculture	Stephanie Wessell	SJW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife	Scott Hopkins	DSH

**Authorized Official:** /s/ Tessa Teems

**Date:** September 2, 2015

**Name:** Tessa Teems

**Title:** Acting Marys Peak Resource Area Field Manager

**Contact Person:** For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Stephanie Wessell, Marys Peak Resource Area Forester, at (503) 315-5954 or at Salem District Office Bureau of Land Management, 1717 Fabry Rd. SE Salem, Oregon.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT, MARYS PEAK RESOURCE AREA**

**Decision Record**

Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2015-0004-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, management of young stands on 84 acres in the Marys Peak Resource Area, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement the Marys Peak Resource Area 2015 Young Stand Silvicultural Activities, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

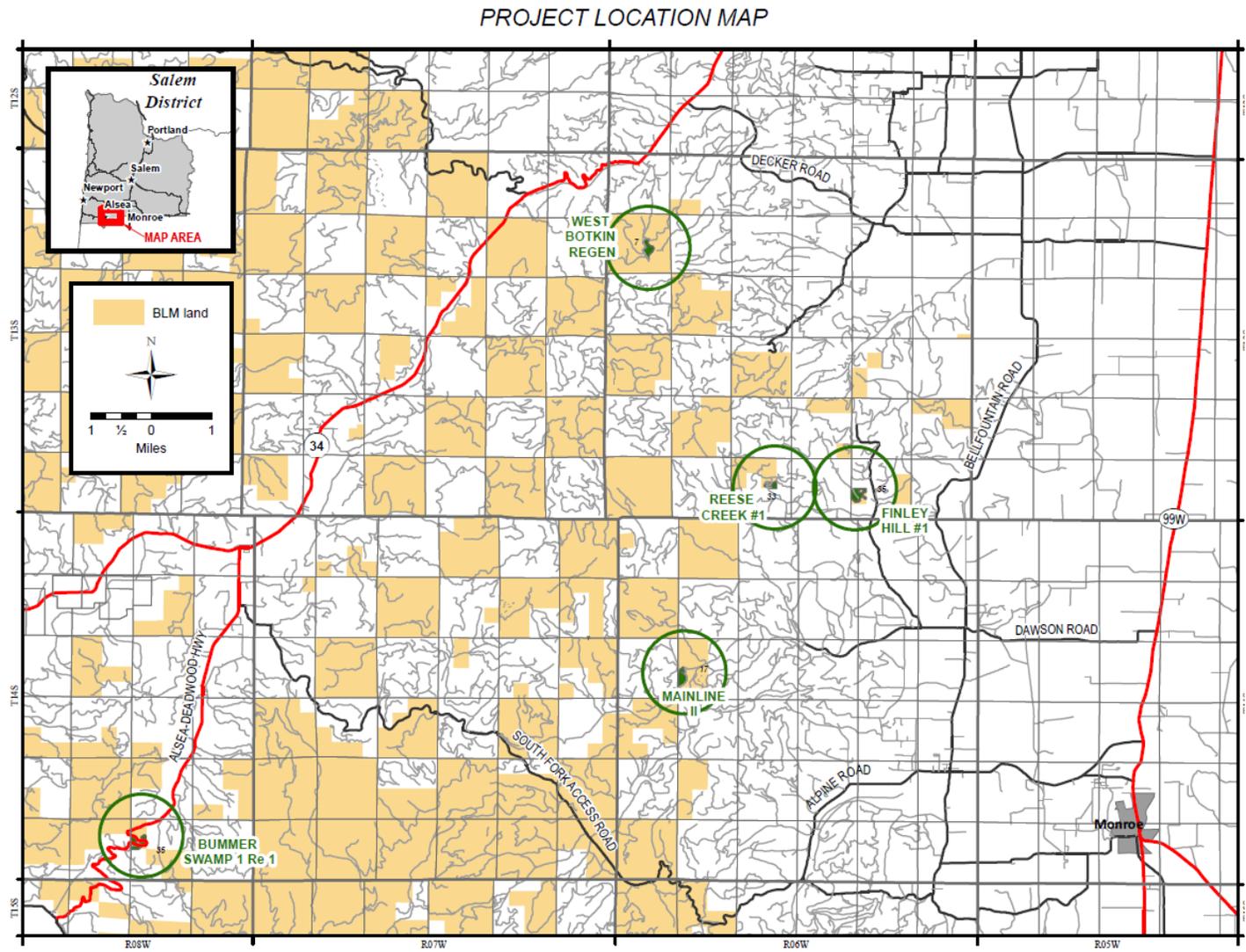
The forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion is subject to protest under 43 CFR subpart 5003. Under 43 CFR 5003.2 subsection (b), a notice of decision will be published in local newspaper(s), and this notice shall constitute the decision document. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (a), protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication date of the notice of decision. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 (b), protests filed with the authorized officer shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. A decision on this protest would be subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, although, under 43 CFR 5003.1 subsection (a), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of a decision governing or relating to forest management under 43 CFR 5003.2 or 5003.3.

Implementation: This project will be implemented October 2015.

**Contact Person:** For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Stephanie Wessell, Marys Peak Resource Area Forester, at (503) 315-5954 or at Salem District Office Bureau of Land Management, 1717 Fabry Rd. SE Salem, Oregon.

Authorized Official: /s/ Tessa Teems Date: September 2, 2015  
Tessa Teems  
Acting Marys Peak Resource Area Field Manager

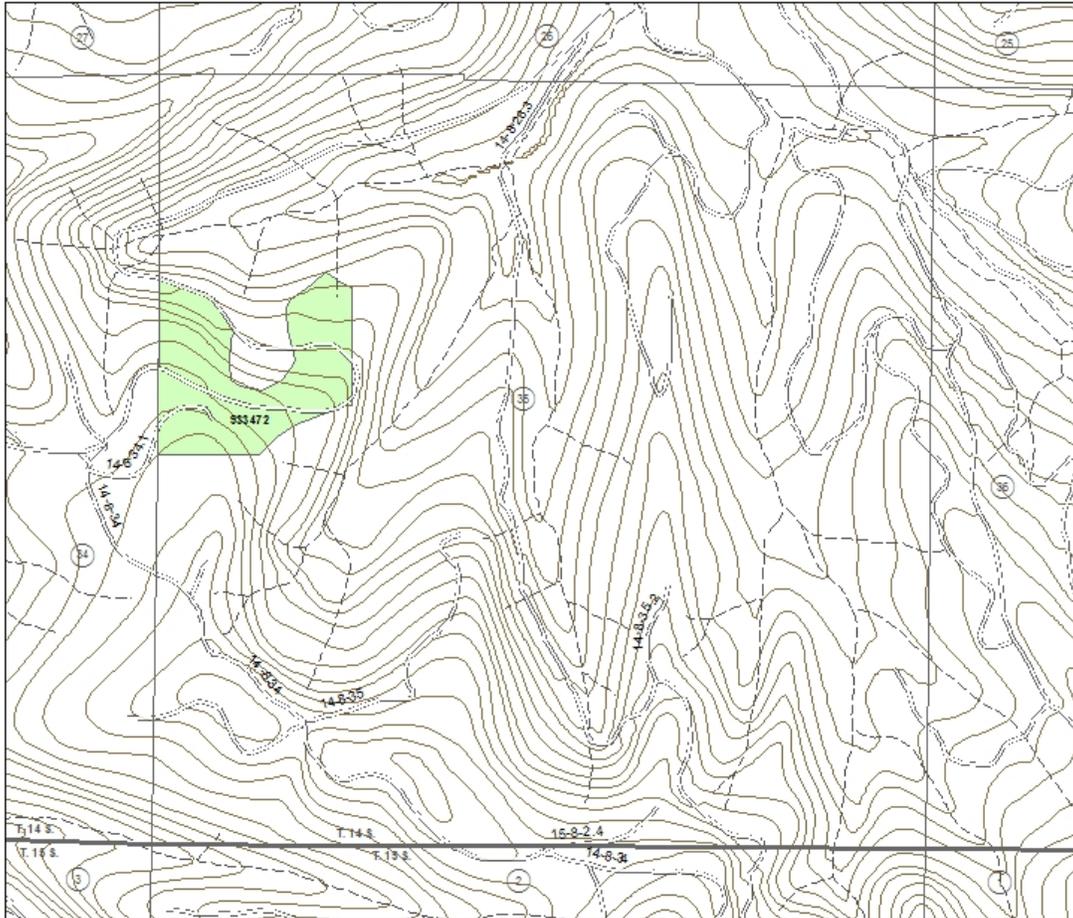
# Appendix 1. Project maps





United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Marys Peak Resource Area - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON  
**UNIT NAME: BUMMER SWAMP I RE 1**  
 T. 14 S., R. 8 W., Section 35, W.M.

Item No: <enter value>  
 Locked Gate: Yes



● Gate    — Passable Road    - - Stream    ■ Project Area  
 === Impassable Road    — 40 ft. Contour

0    500    1,000 Feet   

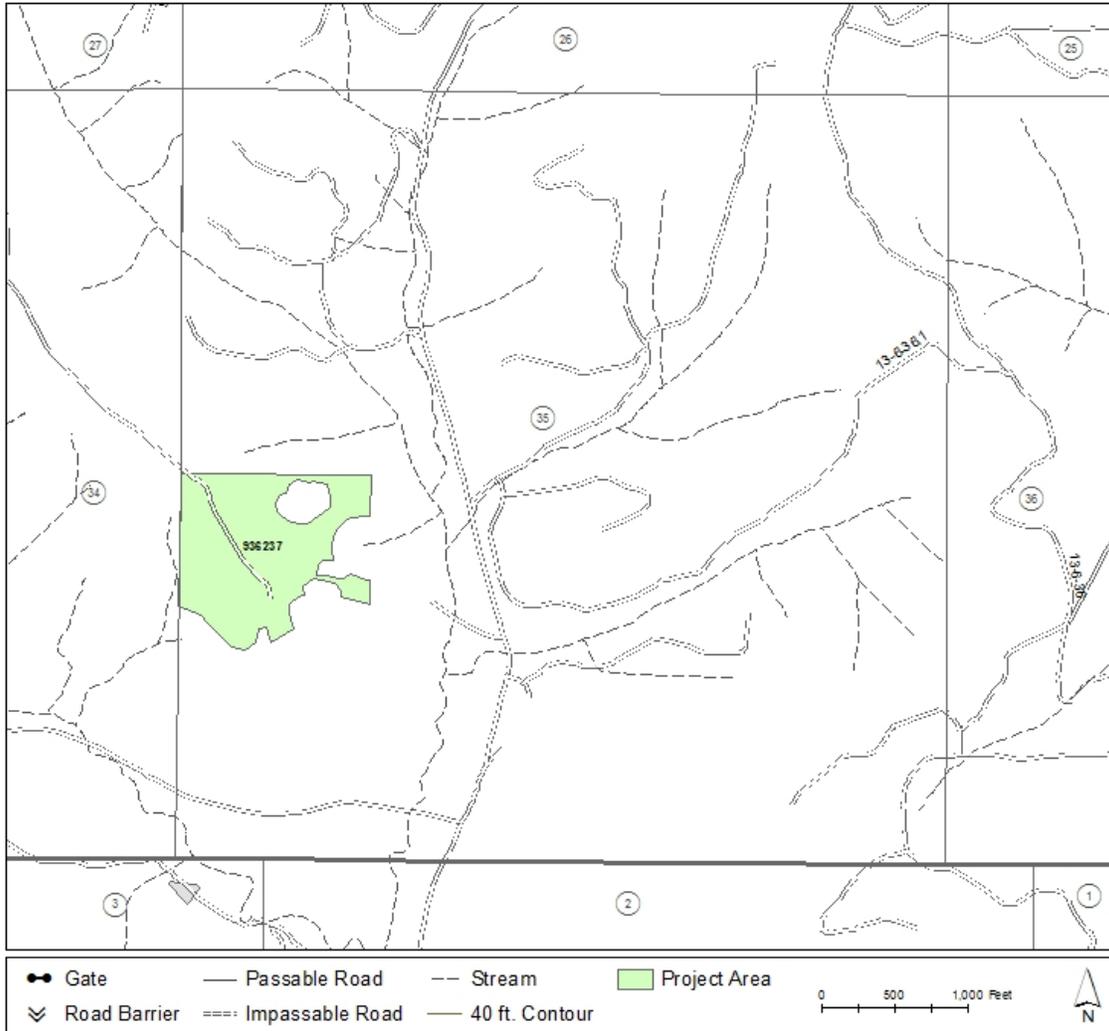
Item#	Unit Name	Ol#	Age	Acres	Elevation range (ft.)
4	Bummer Swamp 1 Re 1	936168	13	25	600-980

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Map Accuracy Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM 7/27/2015



United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Marys Peak Resource Area - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON  
**UNIT NAME: FINLEY HILL#1**  
 T. 13 S., R. 6 W., Section 35, W.M.

Item No: <enter value>  
 Locked Gate: Yes



Item #	Unit Name	Ol#	Age	Acres	Elevation range (ft.)
4	Finley Hill #1	936237	12	25	600-980

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Map Accuracy Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM 1/21/2015

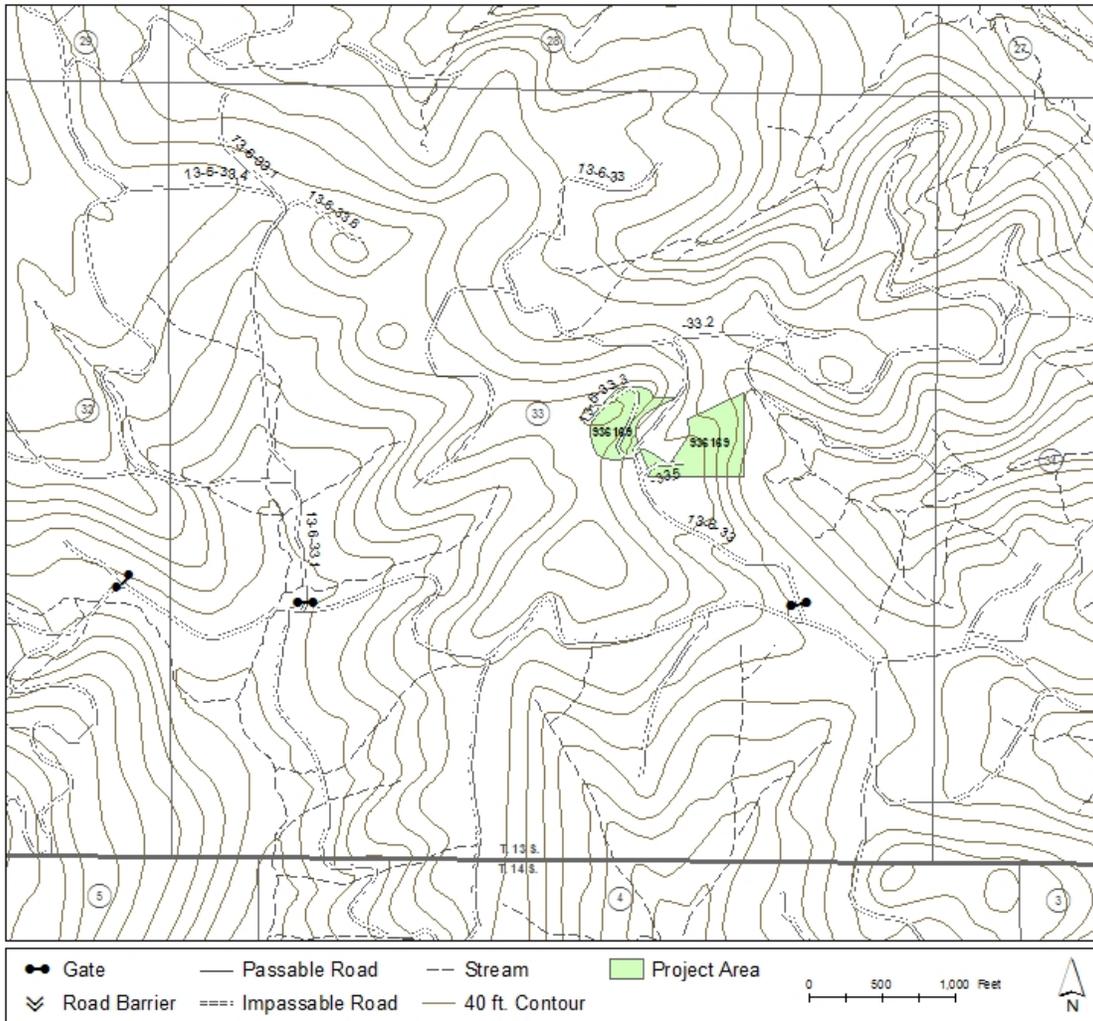


United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Marys Peak Resource Area - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON

**UNIT NAME: REESE CREEK #1**

T. 13 S., R. 6 W., Section 33, W.M.

Item No: <enter value>  
 Locked Gate: Yes



Item #	Unit Name	Ol#	Age	Acres	Elevation range (ft.)
4	Reese Creek #1	936169	12	10	780-980

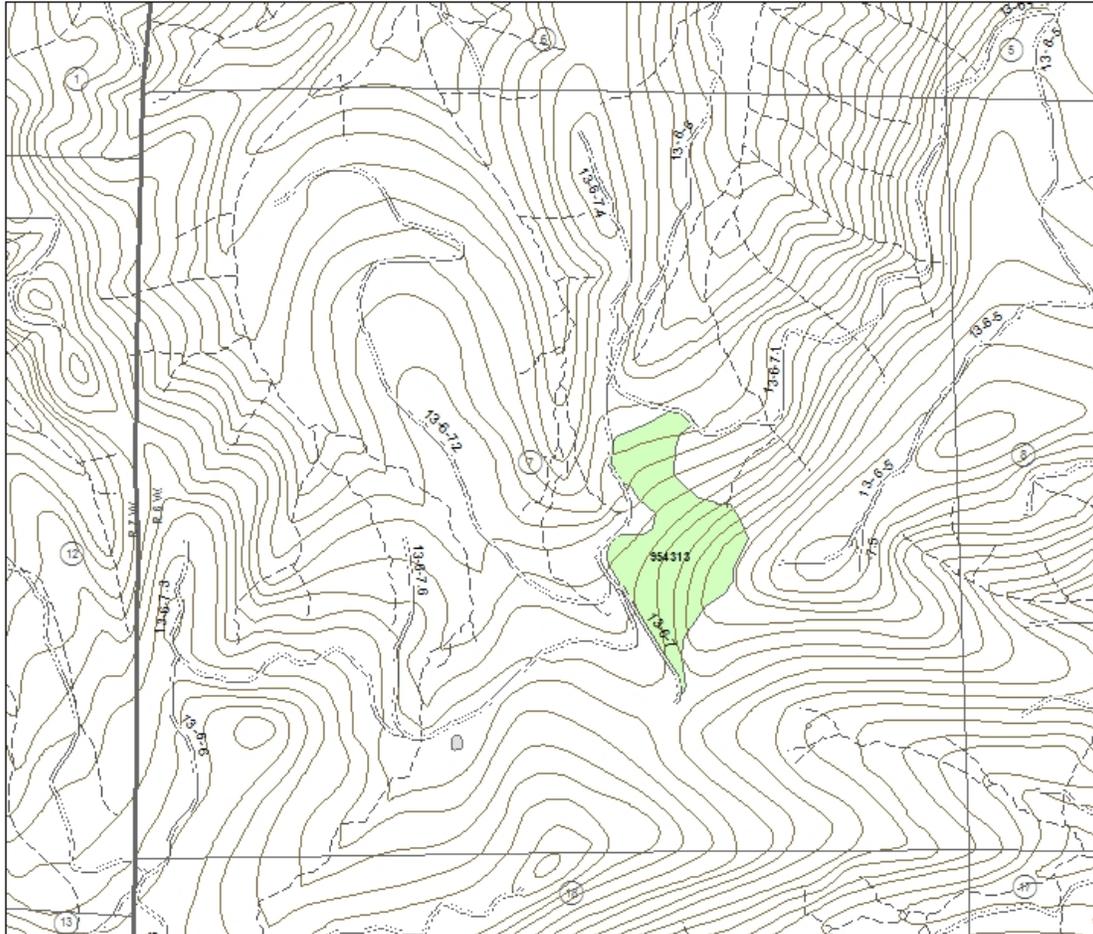
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Map Accuracy Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM 7/27/2015



United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Marys Peak Resource Area - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON

**UNIT NAME: WEST BOTKIN REGEN**  
 T. 13 S., R. 6 W., Section 7, W.M.

Item No: <enter value>  
 Locked Gate: Yes



Item #	Unit Name	OI#	Age	Acres	Elevation range (ft.)
4	West Botkin Regen	954313	10	19	860-1420

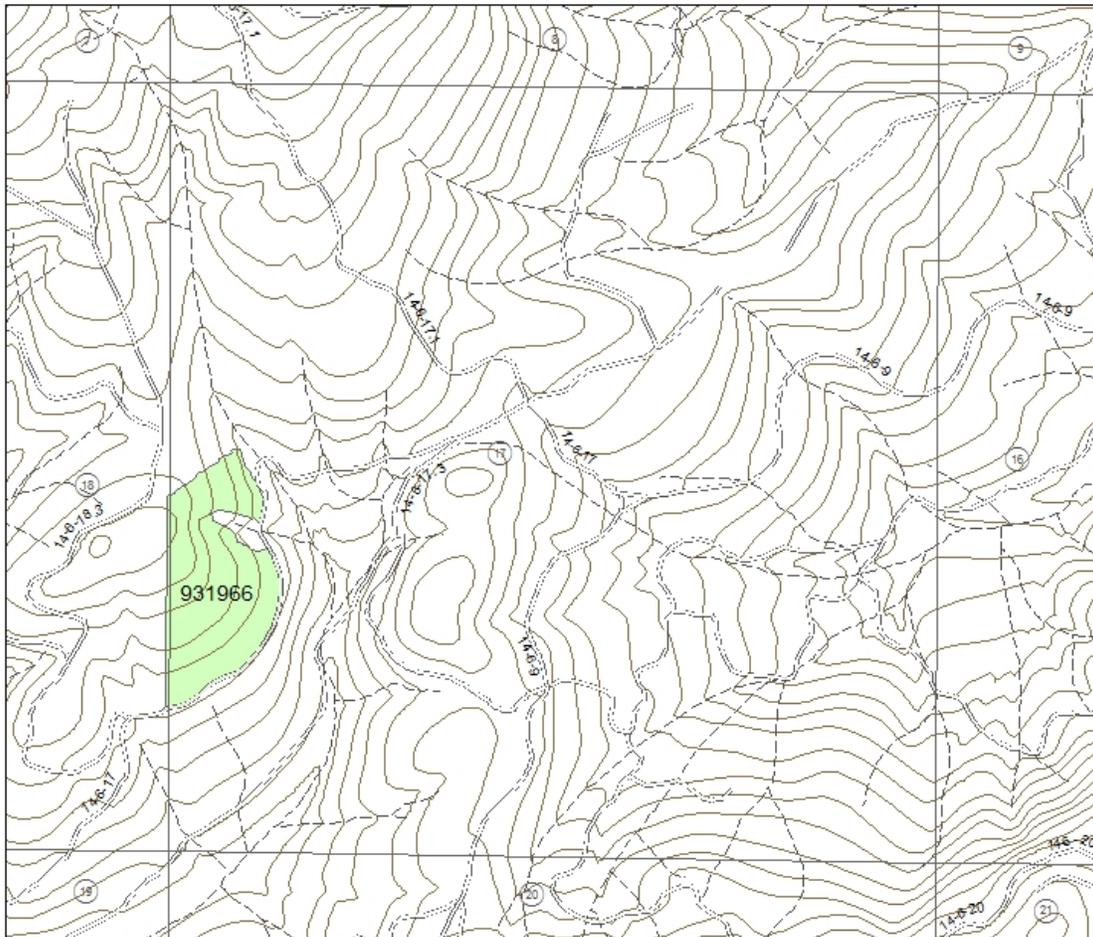
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Map Accuracy Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM 7/27/2015



United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Marys Peak Resource Area - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON

**UNIT NAME: MAINLINE II**  
 T. 14 S., R. 6 W., Section 17, W.M.

Item No: <enter value>  
 Locked Gate: Yes



Item #	Unit Name	OI #	Age	Acres	Elevation range (ft.)
5	Mainline II	933472	5	8	1180-1360

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Map Accuracy Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM 7/27/2015