

Categorical Exclusion Review

A. Background

BLM Office: Salem District – Marys Peak Resource Area Lease/Serial/Case File No: _____

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0005-CX Date: 8/13/2014

Proposed Action Title/Type: Fall-Cole Timber Sale

Location of Proposed Action: T. 14 S., R. 7 W., Section 27 and 34, W.M. Benton County, Oregon

Land Use Allocation(s): Late-Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve

Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of density management and road work activities as described below.

Density Management: Density management will occur on approximately 61 acres¹ of three forest stands aged 39 to 47 years². The stands are adjacent to valuable late-successional habitat. Recent stand exam data shows that these younger stands are very uniform, overstocked, and lacking in structural diversity and vigor. The goal of the project is to increase structural and species diversity and enhance individual tree characteristics (crown size, branch size, growth, and vigor), thereby putting the stand on a trajectory to develop old-growth characteristics. A secondary objective is to slow the spread of laminated root rot (*Phellinus weirii*) disease.

The primary objective for the Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) land use allocation is to implement activities that are beneficial to the creation of late-successional habitat. Density management within the upland portions of these early-seral stands (outside of the Riparian Reserves) will be implemented to accelerate development of late-successional stand characteristics; such as large trees, tree species diversity, and multi-layered canopy. Approximately 130 trees per acre³ will be retained. Canopy closure would be reduced to about 65 percent over most of the area. Approximately 9 acres in one-acre patches (15 percent of the area), will be thinned more heavily, retaining 40-60 trees per acre. Within areas affected by root disease (*Phellinus weirii*), dead and dying trees and host species (primarily Douglas-fir) will be removed, fuels will be reduced, and non-susceptible tree species will be planted.

In Riparian Reserves, no-harvest buffers will be established on streams adjacent to the unit boundaries. There are no perennial streams or intermittent streams within the unit boundaries. The buffers will be a minimum slope distance of 55 feet in width, measured from the top of the stream bank, in consideration of a variety of factors, including unique habitat features,

¹ Approximately 55 acres are within the LSR and 6 acres are within the Riparian Reserves.

² Ages in 2014. Stand data collected in 2011.

³ Ranges from 80-161. 130 is a weighted average of all stands and species, trees greater than six inches DBH.

streamside topography, and vegetation. Susceptibility of streams to solar heating will also be considered in determining specific buffer widths.

Trees designated for cutting and removal will be felled away from these no-harvest buffers. Within the Riparian Reserves, but outside of the no-harvest buffers, a variable spacing marking prescription will be employed that will retain about 130 trees per acre and encourage accelerated growth of the trees as a future source of large wood for instream recruitment.

Road Renovation: Road renovation will occur on approximately 5.1 miles of road. It will include removal of roadside trees that lean into or over the roadbed, trees rooted in the fill slope that could fail and damage paving, and deciduous trees with canopy overtopping the roadway. Road renovation also includes brushing, blading and shaping the roadway, drainage repair, sinkhole repairs, and aggregate surfacing. No new road construction will occur.

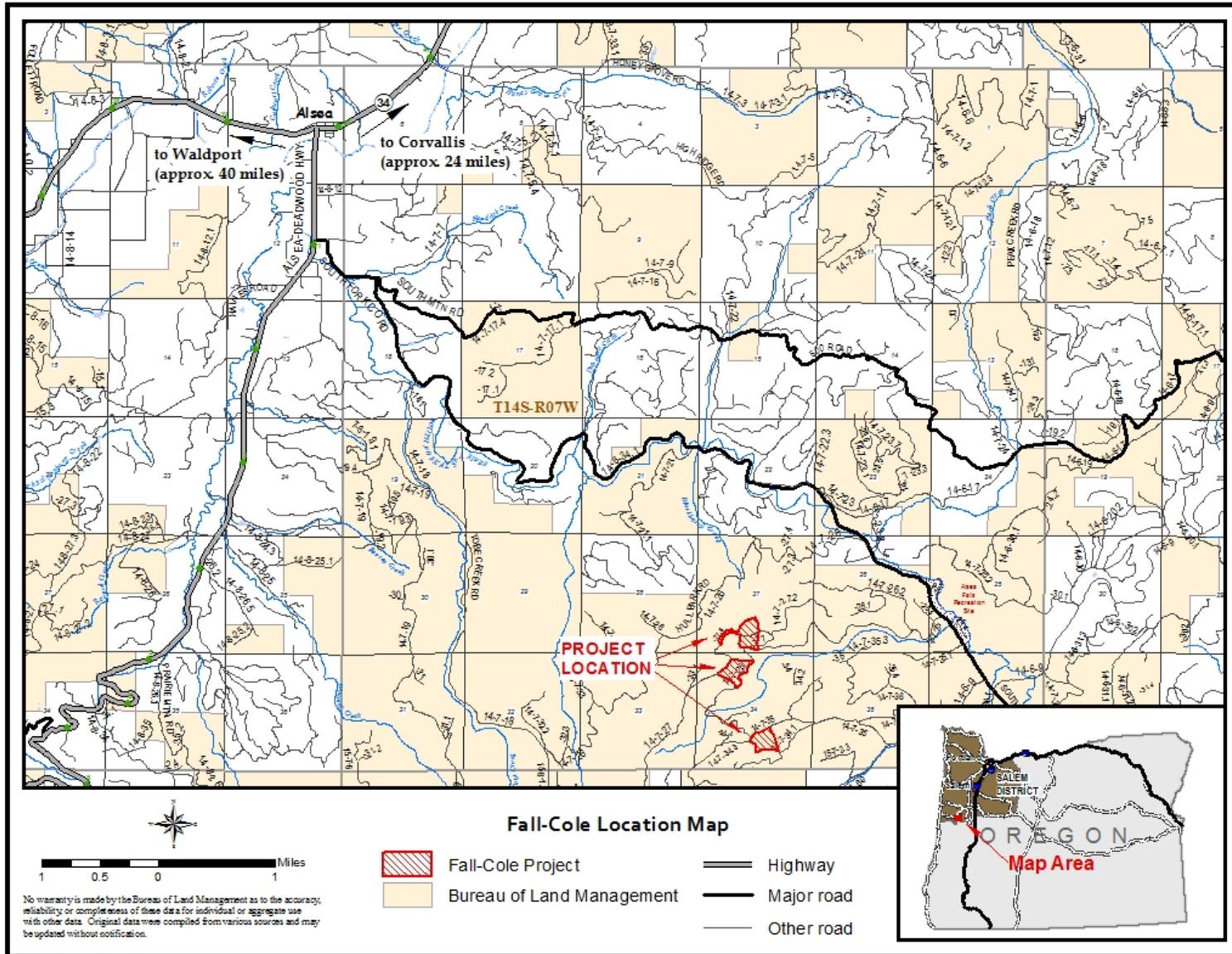
Culvert Replacement: Little culvert maintenance has occurred since the 14-7-25.0 road was built approximately 40 years ago. Many of the culverts have deteriorated and exceeded their designed life span. Several are undersized by current standards and will be replaced to improve function. Nineteen culverts will be replaced within the project area.

Table 1

Components of the Fall-Cole Timber Sale

Proposed Action	Description	Quantity	Comments
Density Management	Thinning to 130 TPA average (range of 80-161 TPA in units, 40-60 TPA in patches)	61 acres	Products: sawlogs and biomass
Culvert Replacement	Replace undersized or damaged culverts on haul routes	19 culverts	No culverts in ESA fish habitat
Road Renovation	Brushing, blading, shaping, and selected tree removal generally located within 50 feet of road edges	5.1 Miles	Road maintenance to remove hardwoods that overhang the road or trees that lean into or over the road and could fall into the road

Map 1. Location Map of the Fall-Cole Timber Sale



Map 2. Fall-Cole Timber Sale

United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Fall-Cole Timber Sale

T. 14 S., R. 7 W., Sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 & 36 - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON

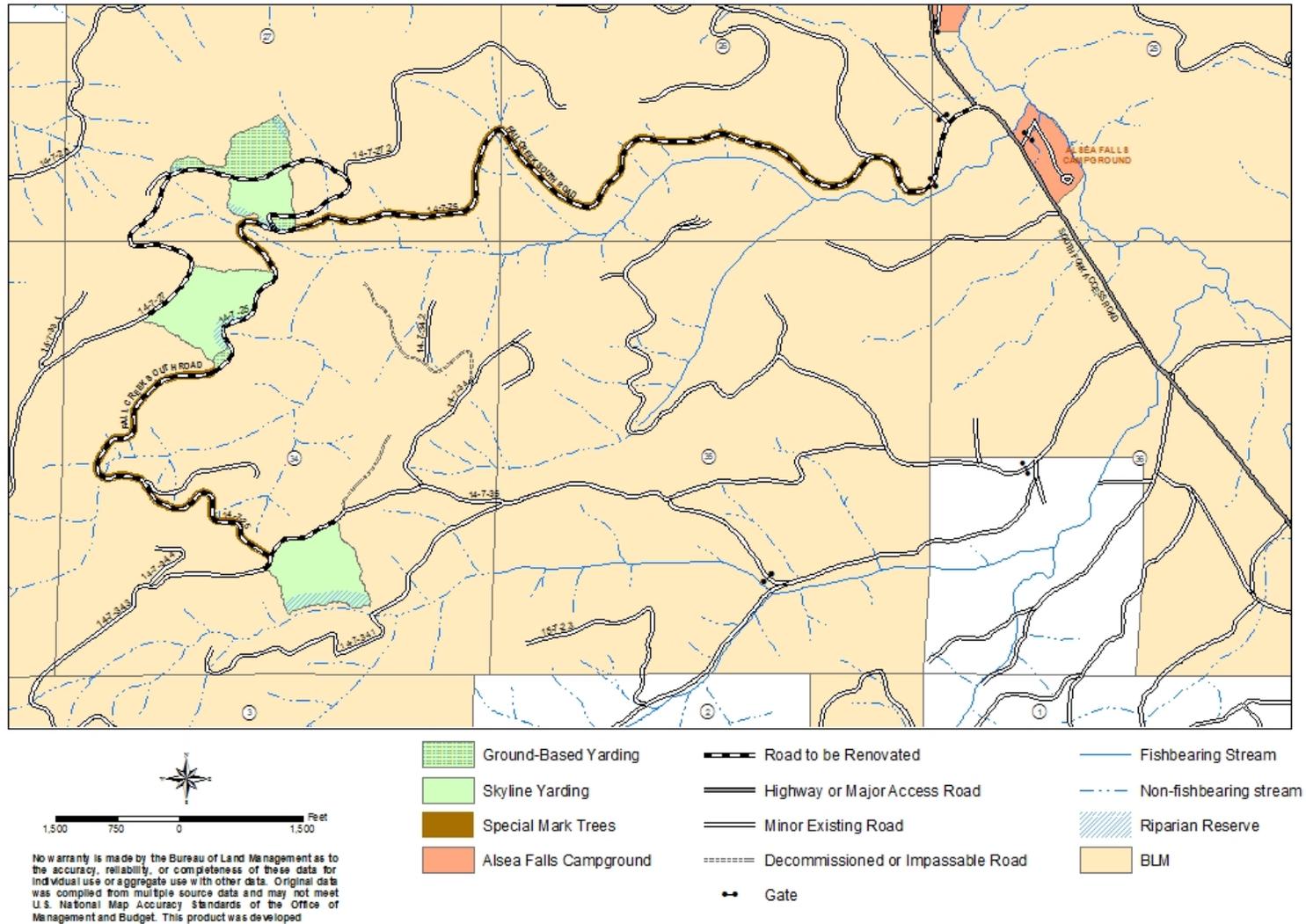


Table 2*Season of Operation and Operating Conditions*

Season of Operation or Operating Conditions	Applies to Operation	Objective
Periods of low tree sap flow, generally July 15-April 15	Yarding outside of road right-of-ways (skyline)	Protecting the bark and cambium of residual trees
Periods of low soil moisture (less than 15%), generally July 15-October 15	Ground-based yarding (tractor)	Minimize soil erosion and compaction
Periods (weather permitting) of acceptable soil conditions, generally June 15-October 31	Ground-based yarding (harvester/forwarder and hydraulic loader) and machine chipping and/or piling	Minimize soil erosion/compaction
Periods of low precipitation, generally May 1-October 31	Road renovation	Minimize soil erosion
Periods of low precipitation, generally May 1-October 31	Timber hauling on roads 14-6-9, 14-7-35, and 14-7-34.3.	Minimize soil erosion
Generally year round	Timber hauling on the 14-7-25 road. Hauling will be allowed year-round on paved roads except where the surface is covered by a layer of mud and where runoff is causing a visible increase in turbidity to adjacent streams and except on roads as noted above.	Minimize soil erosion and stream sedimentation
Generally year round	Timber hauling on the 14-7-27 and 14-7-27.5 roads and the 14-7-35 (where adjacent the timber sale unit) will be allowed year-round on rock surfaced roads except where the surface is deeply rutted or covered by a layer of mud and where runoff is causing a visible increase in turbidity to adjacent streams and except on roads noted above.	Minimize soil erosion and stream sedimentation
July 1 to August 31	In-stream work period (culvert installation).	Minimize soil erosion and stream sedimentation
During the critical breeding period for the marbled murrelet, April 1-August 5	Noise generating activities (chainsaw)	Reduce impacts to marbled murrelet and their habitat
Weekends from Friday of Memorial Day weekend to Monday of Labor Day weekend	Falling, hauling, yarding, and fuel treatment activities	Reduce impacts to recreation

Project Design Features

To protect water quality, minimize soil erosion as a source of sedimentation to streams and to minimize soil productivity loss from soil compaction, loss of slope stability or loss of soil duff layer.

All project activities will utilize the Best Management Practices (BMPs) required by the Federal Clean Water Act (as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987). The BMPs listed below will be applied to this project (Appendix A). Road renovation will occur on approximately 6.8 miles of the 14-7-25, 14-7-27, 14-6-9, 14-7-35, and 14-7-34.3 roads.

- Implement erosion control measures such as waterbars, slash placement and seeding in skid trails where the potential for erosion and delivery to waterbodies, floodplains and wetlands exists (BMPs R21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 78). Construct waterbars on skid trails using guidelines in Table I-21, page 289, 2008 FEIS, Appendix I.
- Maintain area of existing and new skid trails and skyline corridors to be less than 10 percent of the harvest area (TH 9).
- Limit width of skid trails to what is operationally necessary for the equipment (approximately 12 foot width) (TH 10).
- Skid and harvest roads will be blocked where they access main vehicular roads following completion of ground-based yarding (TH 21).
- Skyline corridors will be no closer than 150 foot spacing at one end.
- Ensure one-end suspension of logs during ground-based skidding (TH 11).
- Limit conventional ground-based equipment to slopes less than 35 percent (TH 14).
- Mechanical equipment used for machine piling or biomass production will not operate on slopes steeper than 35 percent unless the equipment is specifically designed to operate on steeper slopes and is approved by the Authorized Officer (TH 15). Other ground-based yarding equipment could be utilized as long as it meets best management practices and results in equivalent or less than the level of impacts analyzed for the project (TH 15).
- Landings should be kept to the minimum size needed to accomplish the job and use existing road surfaces as much as possible (TH 13, R 1, 3, 5).
- Fell harvested trees away from stream channels when possible (TH 17, S 3).
- Replace stream and cross-drain culverts to maintain proper drainage system and repair damaged culvert inlets and downspouts to maintain drainage design capacity (R 38, 40).
- The cutting and disposing of road maintenance trees will be accomplished without

wheeled or tracked equipment operating off of the existing roadway. Log decks may be placed off the roadbed (within ditches, shoulders, and turn outs).

- Trees may blow down following harvest activities. Wind thrown trees within harvest areas may be salvaged without further NEPA analysis under the following conditions:
 - ✓ 1) The project Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) determines them to be in excess of needs for coarse woody debris, consistent with LUA objectives
 - ✓ 2) The project IDT determines the action to be consistent with the project purpose and need and falls within the expected range of effects
 - ✓ 3) Logging system and equipment will be limited to those conditions analyzed for the initial harvest, limited to existing roads, skyline corridors, and skid trails
 - ✓ 4) Subject to all applicable project design features contained herein. Affected areas will be surveyed for reforestation needs and may be planted with tree seedlings.

To Contain and/or Reduce Noxious Weed Infestations on BLM-Managed Lands Using an Integrated Pest Management Approach

- Soil disrupting equipment will be required to be clean and free of dirt and vegetation as directed by the Authorized Officer (SP 1).
- Large areas of exposed mineral soil⁴, as determined by the Authorized Officer, will be grass seeded with Oregon Certified (blue tagged) red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), applied at a rate equal to 40 pounds per acre or sown/planted with other native species as approved by the resource area botanist. Prior to applying seed, the contractor will supply the BLM with the seed certification (blue tag) and seed label (R 17).

To Meet the Objectives of the Riparian Reserves

- Stream protection zones (SPZs) where no cutting, yarding, and/or fuels treatments is permitted will be established along all streams and identified wet areas adjacent⁵ the harvest areas. These zones will be a minimum of approximately 55 feet from the high water mark. Stream protection zone width will be established through shade sufficiency analysis (TH 7).
- From the SPZ to the upper edge of the Riparian Reserve, stand density will be reduced using the same prescription used on the upland forest, maintaining 50% canopy cover in the secondary shade zone (S 9).
- To protect water quality, all trees within one tree height of SPZs will be felled away from streams. Where a cut tree does fall within a SPZ, the portion of the tree within the SPZ will remain in place (TH 17, S 3).

⁴ Large areas may include, but are not limited to, roads to be renovated, cut banks, landings, and skid roads.

⁵ No streams or wet areas have been identified within the project units.

- Unless fisheries personnel determine that large woody debris (greater than 24 inches DBH) for streams and Riparian Reserves in the project area are met (as defined by Watershed Analysis and NFP Standards and Guidelines) road maintenance trees that create large woody debris (LWD) located within Riparian Reserves and outside the road prism will remain on site.
- No refueling will be allowed within 150 feet of any standing or running water (SW 8, 9, SP 1).
- Hand piling of fuels intended for burning is prohibited within 100 feet of any stream channel.
- Mechanical fuels treatment will be prohibited within 200 feet of any stream channel.

To Protect Bureau Special Status Species

- For any listed botanical species whose characteristics make locating them with field surveys practical, clearances will generally be done by field surveys using intuitive controlled methods, field clearances, field reconnaissance, inventories, database searches, known site maps and records and/or habitat examinations. Clearances for fungi are considered “not practical” and surveys are not required.
- Site management of any federal Threatened and Endangered (T&E) botanical or fungal species found as a result of additional inventories or incidental findings would be accomplished in accordance with BLM Manual 6840 (12/12/2008, IM-2009-039).
- No surveys are required and no site management is needed for red tree voles (Bureau Sensitive and Survey & Manage Category C species), because treatment units are less than 80 years old (Pechman Exemption applies), and any incidental loss or displacement of voles in this project area would not contribute to the need to list this species.
- No suitable northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet nest trees will be cut or damaged to unsuitable conditions.
- The resource area biologist or botanist will be notified if any Special Status animal or plant species are found occupying habitats proposed for treatment during project activities. If the species is a federally-listed ESA species, then habitat necessary for the conservation of the species will be withdrawn from the activity. If the species is other than a federally-listed ESA species, then appropriate mitigation action would be taken.
- Project implementation will be conducted in conformance with the applicable Letter of Concurrence (01EOFW00-2012-I-0124) concerning federally listed wildlife species. Pertinent terms and conditions from this consultation includes:
 - ✓ No noise generating activities (use of chainsaws) will occur within 300 feet of unsurveyed suitable marbled murrelet habitat during the critical breeding period (April 1 to August 5);

- ✓ Noise generating activities occurring within 300 feet of unsurveyed suitable marbled murrelet habitat during the period of August 6 to September 15 must not begin until 2 hours after sunrise, and must end 2 hours before sunset.
- ✓ Proposed treatments will be restricted from occurring within 300 feet of an active spotted owl site from March-1 to July-7. This restriction can be lifted if resident owls are found to be non-nesting during this time.

To Protect and Enhance Stand Diversity and Wildlife Habitat

- Tree selection will be based on “designation by description” contractual specifications. Tree selection will be designed to leave a range of tree diameters, maintain or increase the proportion of minor species, create variable density of leave trees, and retain legacy and wildlife tree structure while meeting target densities. Residual tree densities will average 100 sq. ft. (square feet) basal area of Douglas-fir (all other species retained) and approximately 130 trees per acre (TPA). Approximately 15 percent of the density management treatment acreage will have a residual tree density averaging 60 sq. ft. basal area of Douglas-fir trees (approximately 50 TPA).
- Understory conifers less than 5 inches diameter breast height DBH will be excluded from harvest.
- The following special habitat components will be protected unless they pose a safety risk or affect access and operability: snags, CWD, remnant live/legacy trees, hollow trees (live and dead), trees with full live crowns; trees with deformities like broken/dead tops, forked tops, or witches’ brooms. Additional trees will be reserved around large snags (greater than 14 inches DBH and 30 feet in height) to protect them from logging operations and reduce the likelihood of their cutting for worker safety.
- Except in yarding corridors, skid trails, and road prisms, minor species will be retained to maintain tree species diversity and increase the proportion of minor species. With exceptions noted above, only Douglas-fir will be removed.
- In areas infected with *Phellinus weirii* root disease, Douglas-fir trees (the most susceptible species) will be removed within 50 feet of dead or symptomatic trees. If openings greater than approximately 0.5 acre are created, the BLM will evaluate the need for planting following harvest. If needed, seedlings of non-susceptible or immune tree species will be planted. Brush cutting and fuel treatment may be necessary site preparation for planting.
- Any Continuous Vegetation Survey (CVS) plot reference trees will be reserved from harvest to aid in plot relocation for future plot measurements.
- Clumps at existing tree density will be retained and will not exceed 0.1 acre in size.
- Any plus trees (trees selected for genetic traits) and their reference trees, and bearing trees will be reserved from harvest.

- Stand average or larger trees found to have a stick or ball nest will be protected.

To Maintain a Safe and Efficient Road System (tree removal within the rights-of-way)

- Selected trees within 50 feet on each side of BLM administered roads 14-7-25, 14-7-27, 14-7-27.5, 14-6-9, 14-7-35 and 14-7-34.3 on BLM managed lands will be removed. Tree selection will be based on “designation by description” contractual specifications. Trees removed will be less than 80 years old. Trees removed will be defined as:
 - ✓ trees leaning toward or over the roadbed;
 - ✓ deciduous trees with canopies overtopping the roadway;
 - ✓ trees with conditions of likely or imminent failure potential identified in the Field Guide for Danger Tree Identification and Response (USDA USDI, 2008).

To Reduce Fire Risk, Protect Air Quality, and Manage Fuels

- A Prescribed Fire Burn Plan would be initiated and signed by the Authorized Officer prior to any prescribed burning activity.
- Burning would be conducted in accordance with the Salem District RMP, Oregon State Implementation Plan, and Oregon Smoke Management Plan as administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry and would comply with provisions of the Clean Air Act. It would be conducted under good atmospheric mixing conditions to lessen the impact on air quality in Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas.
- Swamper burning, or hand, machine, and landing pile construction and burning may be used individually or in combination in areas where fuel loading is heavy, the fire risk is determined to be high, or site preparation is required to help facilitate tree planting in *Phellinus weirii* pockets.
- Large woody debris greater than 6 inches DBH at the large end will not be piled.
- Hand piles and machine piles will be located at least 10 feet from green trees, snags, and unit boundaries to minimize damage.
- Landing piles will be located as far as possible from reserved trees to minimize damage.
- Hand, machine, and landing piles will be covered with .004 mil. black polyethylene plastic and shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in size to facilitate the consumption of fuels during the high moisture fall/winter burning periods.
- Lopping and scattering of fuels will be incorporated in areas where fuel loading is relatively heavy, but not heavy enough to warrant piling and burning.
- Pullback of fuels will be incorporated in areas where fuel loading is relatively light, (especially along roads) and not heavy enough to warrant piling and burning.

- Utilization of small diameter slash for firewood or energy production from biomass will be incorporated where appropriate.
- Trails in the Density Management project areas will be posted to inform the public of harvest activities.

To reduce potential hazards in high-use recreation areas

- Signs and barricades will be required where necessary to ensure public safety while thinning, hauling, and fuel treatment activities are occurring.
- Falling, hauling, yarding, and fuels treatment activities will be prohibited during the weekends and holidays when operating between Friday of Memorial Day weekend and Monday of Labor Day weekend.
- The 14-7-25 and 14-7-35 roads will be passable for pedestrians and bicyclists each weekend.
- Landings along the 14-7-35 road will avoid impacts to the Upper High-Baller trail and require approval by the authorized officer.

To Protect Cultural Resources

- The project area occurs in the Oregon Coast Range. Survey techniques are based on those described in Appendix D of the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resource on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. Post-project surveys will be conducted according to standards based on slope defined in the Protocol appendix. Project activities will be suspended if archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project work until an archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP) **Date Approved** May 1995 **Date Amended:** The 1995 RMP was amended in January 2001 as documented in the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, dated January 2001 (SM/ROD).

The proposed action is in conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Late-Successional Reserves (RMP pp.15-16):

- Protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional forest species.

- Maintain a functional, interacting, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.
- Plan and implement silvicultural treatments inside Late-Successional Reserves that are beneficial to the creation of late-successional habitat.

Riparian Reserves (RMP pp. 6-15):

- Enhance or restore habitat (e.g. CWD, snag habitat, in-stream large wood) for populations of native riparian-dependent plants, invertebrates, and vertebrate species.
- Improve structural and spatial stand diversity on a site-specific and landscape level in the long-term.

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. (7) which allows for harvesting live trees not to exceed 70 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 mile of temporary road construction.

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 apply. See Table 3, below, for more information.

Table 3

Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<p>a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</p> <p>Rationale: The project will have no significant impacts on public health or safety. Activities associated with the project will be conducted in a forested location outside of population centers and will conform to established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety.</p>		No
<p>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>		No

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:</i>	Yes	No
<p>Rationale: The project area is not located in any park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, or national natural landmarks. There are no floodplains, prime farmlands, wetlands, national monuments, or other ecologically significant or critical areas in the project area. There are no historic or cultural resources within the project area. Density management may alter but will not eliminate the ability of the stand to provide habitat for migratory birds, nor appreciably alter the function or abundance of forest habitat provided by BLM-administered lands in the watershed.</p>		
<p>c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?</p> <p>Rationale: The effects of the project are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Experience has not found the effects of density management in early-seral forests to be highly controversial. The ROD/RMP established the land use allocation and goals for the affected lands. As such, there is no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources.</p>		No
<p>d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p> <p>Rationale: Past experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.</p>		No
<p>e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: The project is authorized under the existing ROD/RMP, and as such, represents implementation of that land use plan decision, not a decision in principle on future actions. Density Management is a silvicultural practice, the application of which is based on forest stand conditions. It has been widely used on BLM lands throughout Oregon and has not been shown to have potentially significant impacts.</p>		No
<p>f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p> <p>Rationale: There are no significant cumulative effects associated with this project. Density management on these units will not alter the forest age class distribution of BLM lands in the watershed.</p>		No
<p>g) 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 National Register Properties are located within the project area.</p>		No

<i>Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<p>h) 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>Fish: The nearest stream crossing replacement is nearly 2 miles upstream of listed fish habitat (LFH). Nearest soil disturbing action in the Riparian Reserve, cross drain replacement, is 1 mile upstream from LFH. No constituent elements of critical habitat will be affected. A determination has been made that the project will have ‘no effect’ on Oregon Coast Coho Salmon. Generally, the ‘no effect’ determination is based on the distance upstream of project activities from ESA listed fish habitat and project design criteria that include no harvest activity within stream protection zones. In addition, no effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) would occur. Consultation with NMFS on ESA listed fish and EFH is not warranted.</p> <p>Wildlife: No known T&E wildlife species will be affected. Action is not likely to adversely affect spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat. Project is in compliance with applicable Letter of Concurrence (#01EOFW00-2012-I-0124) concerning ESA, Section 7 consultation. The project will likely provide a long-term positive benefit to spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat conditions by developing suitable nesting structure sooner than if left untreated.</p> <p>Botany: There are no known sites of any T&E or bureau special status botanical or fungal species within the project areas. The implementation of this project will not have any significant negative impacts on habitat for these species. The reduction of the young, dense conifer stand would improve potential habitat for the future.</p>		No
<p>i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p> <p>Rationale: The project follows all known Federal, State, or local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The project is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Salem District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws.</p>		No
<p>j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p>Rationale: The project is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>		No
<p>k) 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>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
<p>Rationale: There are no identified sacred, ceremonial or religious Indian sites within the area.</p>		
<p>I) 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: The project area has been included in the Marys Peak integrated pest management plan over the past several years. Soil disrupting equipment will be required to be clean and free of dirt and vegetation as directed by the Authorized Officer and areas of disturbed soil will be sown with seed to minimize habitat available to noxious weed species. The risk rating for any adverse affects from the establishment of non-native plants through the implementation of this project is low because of the ongoing resource area treatments reducing non-native plant populations and due to existing biological control on the widespread common weeds known from western Oregon.</p>	No	

D. Interdisciplinary Team Review and Signature

Name	Specialty
Debra Drake	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Kent Mortensen	Fuels Specialist
Mellissa Rutkowski	Engineer
Scott Snedaker	Fisheries Biologist
Hugh Snook	Forester – Silviculture
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist
Steve Wegner	Hydrologist and Soil Scientist

Authorized Official: /s/ Rich Hatfield Date: August 13, 2014

Name: Rich Hatfield

Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX, contact Stefanie Larew, Natural Resource Specialist, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, at (503) 375-5601.

Appendix A

Water Quality Management Plan

Introduction

Water Quality Management on BLM-administered lands that are covered under the Fall-Cole Timber Sale CX is based on the site specific application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and disclosed as Project Design Features (PDF).

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices are required by the federal Clean water Act as amended to mitigate the potential for non-point source pollution. Non-point source pollution is pollutants detected in concentrated water (e.g. stream or lake) from a wide range of forest management activities on federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BMPs are considered the primary methods for achieving Oregon’s water quality standards (IM-OR-2011-074, and 1995 Salem District RMP).

The overall goal is not to strictly adhere to the wording of the BMP, but rather to implement its intent. That is to protect, promote, and enhance water quality to meet federal and state water quality objectives. In that matter, BMPs are site-specific and the implementation of the BMP is tailored to the on-the-ground conditions. The following BMPs are site-specific application to forest and road management activities undertaken by the Fall-Cole Timber Sale in the Marys Peak Resource Area.

Table 1

Best Management Practices

BMP No.	Roads
R1	Locate roads and landings on stable locations that minimize sediment delivery potential to streams (e.g., ridge tops, stable benches or flats, and gentle-to-moderate side-slopes).
R3	Locate roads and landings outside of jurisdictional wetlands.
R5	Located landings in areas with low risk to landslides
R23	Drain the road surface by using crowning, insloping, or outsloping. Road surfaces, regardless of traffic volume, may use a combination of these methods for effective road drainage into nonerodible areas.
R24	Use rolling drainage dips and/or lead off ditches as options in lieu of culverts for low traffic volume roads with less than 10 percent gradient.

R25	Locate surface water drainage measures where they will drain the road surface without delivering sediment to a stream or waterbody, and at frequencies that are sufficient to prevent damage or serious erosion of the road surface. Install during the dry season.
R28	Divert road and landing runoff water away from headwalls, unstable areas or stream channels.
R29	Shape landings to spread surface water runoff to well vegetated, stable ground.
R30	Prevent diversion of water from streams into road ditches or upon road surfaces.
R32	Locate cross drains such that runoff and sediment is not discharged to a stream. Use measures such as ditchline settling basins, culvert endcaps and perforated flex pipes to disperse culvert discharge near streams and waterbodies.
R38	Install downspout structures and/or energy dissipaters at cross drain outlets or drain dips where water is discharged onto loose material or erodible slopes.
R40	Where debris or sediments may plug cross-drains, use slotted risers, oversized culverts, or build catch basins.
R96	Suspend timber hauling during wet weather when road run-off delivers sediment at higher concentrations than existing conditions in the receiving stream.
R78	Retain low-growing herbaceous ground cover and brush on cut-and-fill slopes, and ditchlines to the maximum possible extent.
BMP No.	Timber Harvest
TH7	Exclude equipment from riparian management area retention areas (60 from the edge of the active stream channel for fish bearing and perennial streams, lakes and ponds, and 35 feet for intermittent streams), except for road crossings, restoration, wildfire, or similar operational reasons.
TH9	Plan use on existing and new skid trails to be less than 10 percent of the harvest area.
TH10	Limit the width of the skid trails to be what is operationally necessary for the equipment.
TH11	Ensure one-end suppression of logs.
TH14	Limit conventional ground-based equipment to slopes less than 35 percent.
TH15	When specialized ground-based mechanical equipment is used on slopes greater than 35 percent, monitor use, and restrict where water and sediment could channel overland.
TH16	Designate skid trails where water from trail surface would not be channeled into unstable areas adjacent to water bodies, floodplains, and wetlands.
TH17	When hand falling, directionally fall trees towards skid trails. When mechanically

	harvesting allow activities to facilitate skidding.
TH18	Apply erosion control practices to skid roads and other disturbed areas with potential for erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to water bodies, floodplains, or wetlands.
TH19	Construct waterbars on skid trails using guidelines in Table C-5.
TH21	Block skid trails that intersect haul routes at the end of season use.
BMP No.	Silvicultural Activities
S3	Fell thinned trees away from stream channels when possible. If not possible that portion of the tree within the buffer must be left on the ground.
S9	Within Riparian Reserve Areas, design size, shape and placement of restoration areas to maintain as much effective shade as possible.
BMP No.	Surface Source Water for Drinking Water
SW8	Avoid loading, or storing chemical, fuel, or fertilizer in sensitive zones in surface source watersheds.
SW9	Conduct equipment maintenance outside site-specific sensitive zones in surface source watersheds.
BMP No.	Spill Prevention and Abatement
SP1	Inspect and clean equipment before it reaches the site. Refuel all equipment a minimum of 100 feet away from streams. Immediately remove waste or spilled materials and contaminated soils near any stream or waterbody in accordance with the applicable regulatory standard. Notify Oregon Emergency Response System of any spill over the material reportable quantities within 24 hours.

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

Decision Record

Based on the attached categorical exclusion DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0005-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, density management on 61 acres of 39-47 year old stands, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the Fall-Cole timber sale as described in the attached categorical exclusion.

Administrative Review Opportunities

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003, protests of this decision may be made within 15 days of the publication of a notice of decision in a newspaper of general circulation. The notice for this decision will appear in the Benton County Gazette-Times newspaper on August 20, 2014.

To protest this decision a person must submit a written protest to Rich Hatfield, Marys Peak Field Manager, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon 97306 by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on September 4, 2014. A written protest electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted as a protest. A written protest must be on paper.

The protest must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error. Any objection to the project design or my decision to go forward with this project must be filed at this time in accordance with the protest process outlined above. If a timely protest is received, this decision will be reconsidered in light of the statements of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available and the BLM shall serve a decision in writing on the protesting party (43 CFR 5003.3).

Implementation

If no protest is received within 15 days after publication of this Decision Record, this decision will become final. The planned sale date is September 17, 2014. For additional information concerning this categorical exclusion, contact Stefanie Larew, Natural Resource Specialist, at (503) 375-5601. For additional information on the Fall-Cole Timber Sale, contact Andy Frazier, Supervisory Forester, at (503) 315-5979.

Authorized Official: /s/ Rich Hatfield

Rich Hatfield
Marys Peak Field Manager

Date: August 13, 2014