

Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format When Using Categorical Exclusions Not Established by Statute

A. Background

BLM Office: Marys Peak Resource Area **Lease/Serial/Case File No:** _____

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0007-CX **Date:** 5/22/2012

Proposed Action Title/Type: Wind Creek Salvage _____

Location of Proposed Action: T. 7 S., R. 7 W., Sections 15 and 23, Willamette Meridian. Polk County, Oregon.

Land Use Allocation(s): AMR (Adaptive Management Area with Late-Successional Reserves overlay)

Description of Proposed Action:

Approximately 14 acres of timber on BLM land blew down in a severe storm in December 2011. The proposed action is to salvage harvest approximately 12 acres of the 48 to 62 year old timber and leave moderate to high levels of downed trees on site to meet objectives of the Late-Successional Reserves (LSR) for coarse woody debris (CWD).

Of the 14 acres, approximately 12 acres will be harvested and 2 acres will be excluded from harvest. The two acres along the forested margin of the stand, as delineated on the project map (p. 3), will be excluded from harvest to provide for abundant CWD and unaltered natural processes.

Blowdown extended into the Riparian Reserves (RR) on the northern portion of the unit in Section 15. This area is generally limited in harvest; trees that originate in the RR will not be harvested. Trees (or portions thereof) that originated in AMR and fell into the RR may be removed. The IDT determined that CWD levels in the RR are sufficient enough to support this incidental tree removal without retarding the attainment of ACS objectives.

The action is neutral for LSR conditions by retaining an unsalvaged two-acre strip (abundant CWD and natural processes undisturbed along forest edge), retaining 10 trees per acre in the remainder of the salvage area (moderate level of CWD), and leaving all existing CWD that is decay class 2 or higher (moderate level of CWD which includes older windthrow, stem suppression mortality, and some legacy logs with advanced decay). Collectively this treatment area will easily retain high levels of CWD volume beyond what would be expected for a stand of this age-class.

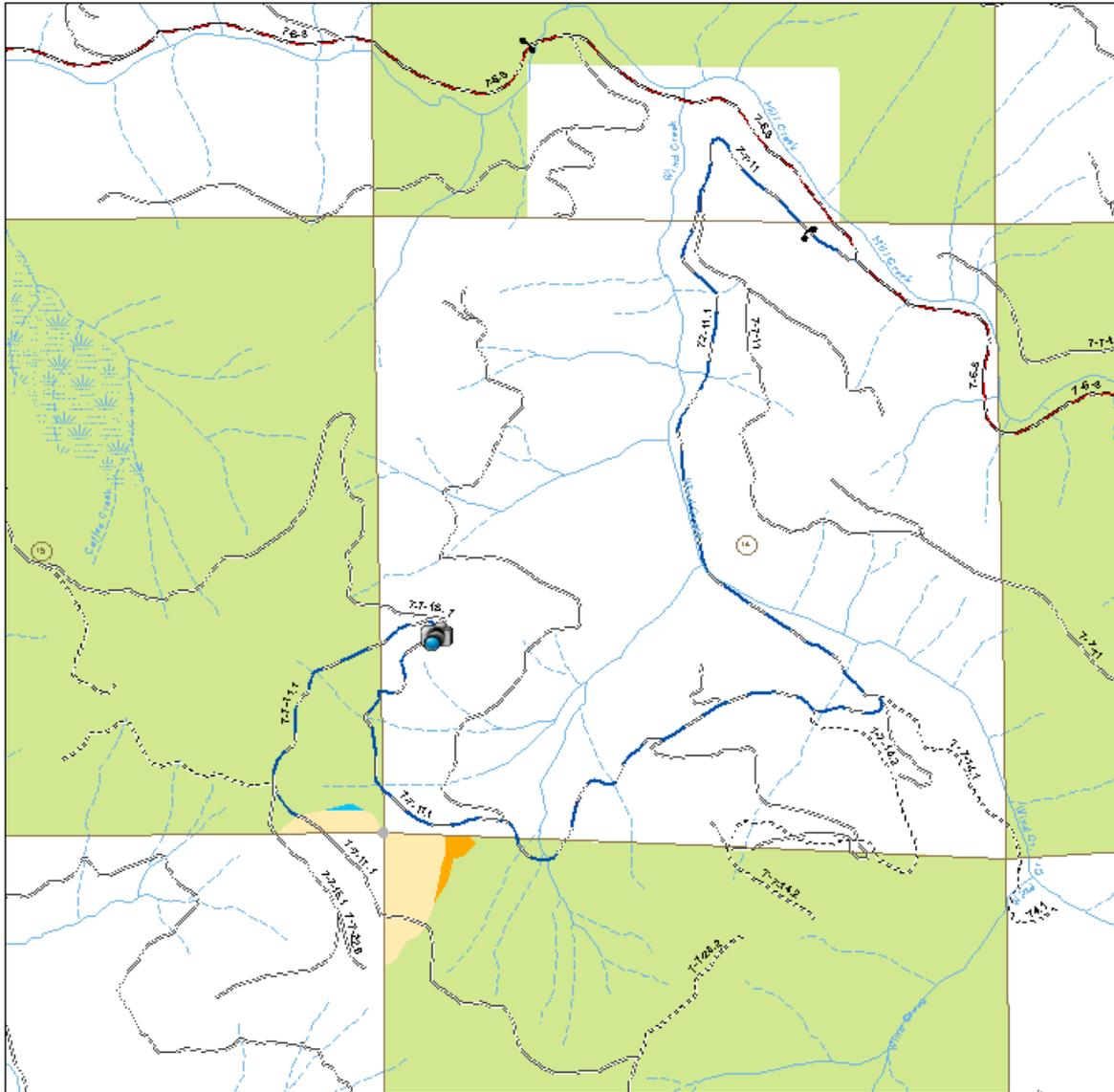
This action is beneficial for early-seral habitat by opening new growing space for a diversity of shrub species and sapling conifers, while mitigating the bark beetle response in the adjoining stand and reducing the risk of wildfire.

The harvest is expected to begin in the summer of 2012. Trees will be harvested by skyline yarding

and one-end suspension of logs will be required. Following salvage operations, the harvested area will be planted with a mix of native conifer species. No road construction or road renovation is proposed. The haul roads are primarily on Weyerhaeuser-administered roads that are exclusively maintained by Weyerhaeuser. The BLM is responsible for maintenance on only short segments of the haul roads in the project area. Road maintenance (debris removal, spot rocking, minor road grading) in the project area may be necessary to maintain road surfaces during project implementation. No other road work is anticipated.

WIND CREEK SALVAGE PROJECT MAP

T. 7 S., R. 7 W., Section 15, W.M. - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON



-  Camera Location
-  Found Corner
-  HaulRoute
-  Minor Road
-  Impassable Road

-  Fishbearing Stream
-  Non-fishbearing Stream
-  Wetland or Marsh
-  Dropped from unit (Riparian Reserve)
-  Dropped from unit (CWD)
-  Wind Creek Units (12 acres)

- Land Use Allocations**
-  Congressional Reserve
 -  Late-Successional Reserve
 -  Adaptive Management Area with LSR
 -  Adaptive Management Area
 -  General Forest Management Area
 -  No Designation

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. Kings Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM

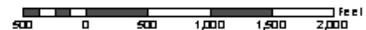


Photo 1. Photo of the project area taken from the north (camera location shown on map on preceding page)



Project Design Features

Table 1. Season of Operation or Operating Conditions

Season of Operation or Operating Conditions	Applies to Operation	Objective
During periods of dry weather and low soil moisture*, generally May 1 to October 31	Timber hauling on the following roads: # 7-7-11, 7-7-11.1, 7-6-8	Minimize soil erosion/stream sedimentation

*Low soil moisture is generally defined as less than 15%

Project Design Features

To protect water quality, to minimize soil erosion as a source of sedimentation to streams, to minimize soil productivity loss from soil compaction and loss of slope stability or loss of soil duff layer, and to contain and/or reduce noxious weed infestations on BLM-managed lands using an integrated pest management approach.

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 (see Appendix A – Water Quality Management Plan).

To meet the objectives of the Riparian Reserves

- No refueling will be allowed within 100 feet of any standing or running water (**SW 8, 9, SP 1, RST 10**).
- Tree harvest will be limited in the Riparian Reserves (within 210 feet of streams) to meet desired levels of CWD and large woody debris (LWD).
- Woody material removed from stream crossing for culvert maintenance must be retained in the stream network.

To protect Special Status Species

- The resource area biologist and/or botanist will be notified if any Bureau SS botanical, fungal or animal species are found occupying any portion of the trees to be cut and removed. If the species is a federal listed ESA species then all of the known trees will be withdrawn from any timber harvesting activity. If the species is other than a federal listed ESA species, then appropriate mitigation action will be taken.

To protect and enhance stand diversity and maintain coarse woody debris conditions

- Recommendations for salvage within LSR land use allocation (see Late Successional Reserve Assessment, page 99) will be followed to provide high levels of CWD for this stand type, while mitigating potential for subsequent beetle damage to adjacent stands by:
 - excluding approximately 2 acres of blowdown to be left untreated along the east edge of the salvage unit in Section 23 (see Project Map) which will provide for abundant CWD and unaltered natural processes,
 - retaining approximately 10 downed trees per acre within the harvest area by selecting larger diameter downed trees that underlie the fallen clusters,
 - retaining all existing CWD that is decay class 2 or higher, and all fresh logs (decay class 1) that are over 30 inches (few expected), and

- Retaining all green trees and snags that are not root-sprung and are not deemed a safety hazard.
- Replant treated area with appropriate mix of native conifer species to potentially include disease resistant and non-host species.

To minimize the spread of noxious weeds

- All equipment moved into the project area by a lowboy will be required to be clean and free of dirt and vegetation as directed by the Authorized Officer.
- All large areas of exposed mineral soil, as determined by the contracting officer will be grass sown with Oregon Certified (blue tagged) red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) as a rate equal to 40 pounds per acre or sown/planted with other native species as approved by the resource area botanist. Prior to sowing any seed, the seed label and blue tag will be given to the resource area botanist for approval (**R 97**).

To reduce fire risk, protect air quality, and manage fuels

- A Prescribed Fire Burn Plan will be initiated and signed by the Authorized Officer prior to any prescribed burning activity.
- Burning will 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 will 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 or where the fire risk is determined to be high, or site preparation is required to help facilitate tree planting.
- Large woody debris will not be piled.
- Hand piles and machine piles will be located at least ten (10) feet from green trees to minimize damage, or on top of Bigleaf maple stumps to help prevent re-sprouting.
- 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. thick 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.
- The project area may be posted with signs to notify the public of harvest, log hauling, or biomass utilization activities.

To protect Cultural Resources

- The project area occurs within the Coast Range Physiographic Province. 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. A post-project survey would be conducted according to standards based on slope defined in the Protocol appendix.

- If any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) is discovered during project activities 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

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):

- Salvage of dead trees in Late-Successional Reserves where stand replacing events exceed ten acres in size and canopy closure has been reduced to less than 40 percent (pp. 16-17).

Further, this action is consistent with management recommendations for salvage within LSR in the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management's 1998 *Late Successional Reserve Assessment for Oregon's Northern Coast Range Adaptive Management Area (Late-Successional Reserve RO269, RO270 & RO807)*.

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, 11.9, C(8), which allows for "salvaging dead or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 mile of temporary road construction."

Table 2. Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
<p>a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety?</p> <p>Rationale: The proposed project will have no impacts on public health or safety therefore will have no significant impacts on public health or safety. All activities associated with the proposed action 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> <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 present in the project area. There are no known historic or cultural resources located within the project area.</p>		No
<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 proposed action are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Past experience has shown that the environmental effects of the proposed project are not 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: Removing windthrown trees is 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
<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 proposed project is addressed and authorized under the existing ROD/RMP, and as such, this project will represent implementation of that land use plan decision, not a decision in principle on future actions.</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 cumulative effects associated with the proposed project and therefore no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions.</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>		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
<p>Rationale: There are no NRHP listed or eligible sites located within the project area.</p>		
<p>h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened (T&E) Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?</p>	No	
<p>Rationale: <u>Botany:</u> No T&E or Bureau Special Status botanical or fungi will be affected. <u>Wildlife:</u> No T&E or Bureau Special Status wildlife will be affected. Not likely to adversely affect spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat. Project is in compliance with applicable Letter of Concurrence (#13420-2010-I-0105) concerning ESA, Section 7 consultation. <u>Fish:</u> No T&E or Bureau Special Status fish species will be affected.</p>		
<p>i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p>	No	
<p>Rationale: The proposed project is in conformance with direction given for the management of public lands in the Salem District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws such as the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act and others.</p>		
<p>j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p>	No	
<p>Rationale: The proposed project is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>		
<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	
<p>Rationale: Past actions within this area have not resulted in tribal identification of concerns.</p>		
<p>l) 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>	No	
<p>Rationale: The risk rating for the long-term establishment of noxious weeds through the implementation of this project is low because: a) the project area is limited in size, b) the project area will be monitored for the establishment of noxious weed species, c) the resource area has a weed management plan in place which allows for control of non-native and noxious weed species and d) the Authorized Officer would require sowing grass seed on mineral soil areas which would reduce the amount of potential noxious weed habitat.</p>		

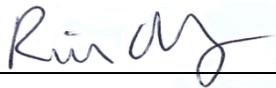
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43

CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (see Table 2, above) apply.

D. Signature

Table 3. Interdisciplinary Team Review

Debra Drake	Recreation Specialist
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Andy Frazier	Contract Administrator
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Kent Mortensen	Fuels Technician
Arlene Roux	Forester – Silviculture
Mellissa Rutkowski	Engineer
Scott Snedaker	Fisheries Biologist
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist
Steve Wegner	Hydrologist and Soil Scientist

Authorized Official:  _____ **Date:** 5/22/2012
Name: Rich Hatfield
Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Andy Frazier, Contract Administrator, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, or (503) 315-5979.

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

Decision Record

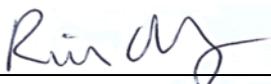
Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Review, DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0007-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, harvesting windthrown trees on 12 acres, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the proposed action, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation.

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. The notice of this decision will appear in the Polk County Itemizer-Observer Newspaper on or around May 30, 2012. 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 in the summer of 2012. The planned sale date is June 27, 2012.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review; contact Andy Frazier, Contract Administrator, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, (503) 315-5979.

Authorized Official:  Date: 5/22/2012
Rich Hatfield
Marys Peak Field Manager

Water Quality Management Plan

Appendix A

Introduction

Water Quality Management on BLM-administered lands that are covered under the Wind Creek Salvage is based on the site specific application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and disclosed as Project Design Features (PDFs).

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.

The overall goal is not to strictly adhere to the wording of the BMP, but rather to implement the intent of the prescribed BMP. That is to protect, promote and enhance water quality in order 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 road management activities undertaken by the Wind Creek Salvage on the Marys Peak Resource Area.

Table 1.0 Best Management Practices

BMP No.	Roads
R 97	Apply erosion control, such as seeding and mulching, to all hydrologically connected road related bare soil surfaces, where erosion could occur, including stream banks and stream-adjacent side slopes following culvert removal. Place sediment trapping materials such as straw bales and jute netting at the toe of stream-adjacent side slopes following culvert removal. Complete seeding and mulching erosion control work by October 15 of each year. When straw mulch or rice straw mulch is used; require certified weed free, if readily available. Mulch shall be applied at no less than 2000 lbs./acre. Vegetative cuttings, shrubs and trees may be considered as needed for erosion control. Planting of shrubs and trees should occur during the winter dormant season.
BMP No.	Surface Source Water for Drinking Water
SW 8	Avoid loading, or storing chemical, fuel, or fertilizer in sensitive zones in surface source watersheds.
SW 9	Conduct equipment maintenance outside site-specific sensitive zones in surface source watersheds.
BMP No.	Restoration
RST 10	Refuel equipment, including chainsaws and other power tools, at least 100 feet from water bodies to prevent direct delivery of contaminants into a water

	body. This distance can be less if the equipment is contained within a spill containment structure.
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 water body in accordance with the applicable regulatory standard. Notify Oregon Emergency Response System of any spill over the material reportable quantities within 24 hours. This distance can be less if the equipment is contained within a spill containment structure.