

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

## A. Background

**Project:** Mainline II Salvage                      Lease/Serial/Case File No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0006-CX      Date: 3/13/2012

**Location:** T. 14 S., R. 6 W., Section 17, Willamette Meridian

**Land Use Allocation(s):** Matrix – General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Riparian Reserves (RR)

### Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action is to salvage harvest approximately four (4) acres of 60-year-old Douglas-fir trees that blew down during a winter storm in 2011. The project area is in T.14 S., R.6 W., Section 17, and is approximately 14 air miles southwest of Philomath, Oregon. The trees to be salvaged are located within a stand of timber that was commercially thinned as part of the Mainline II timber sale in 2010.

The windthrown trees will be harvested utilizing the same methods as designed and analyzed in the Mainline II timber sale EA. Trees will be harvested by skyline yarding and one-end suspension of logs will be required. Fallen trees originating in the Riparian Reserve will be left on site. Trees originating outside the RR which fell into the RR may be removed; however, the portion of tree that reach through the RR and enters to the Stream Protection Zone (SPZ), 75 feet from the intermittent stream, will be left on site to meet coarse woody debris objectives. The harvest is expected to occur during the summer of 2012 and take approximately one week to complete.

No road construction or renovation will be required. Seedlings within the project area will be planted this spring before salvage harvest operations begin. Following salvage operations, the area will be evaluated by BLM resource specialists and may be planted with additional conifer seedlings.

### Project Design Features

**Table 1. Season of Operating or Operating Conditions**

Season of Operation or Operating Conditions	Applies to Operation	Objective
Generally year round	Timber hauling will be allowed year-round on rock surfaced roads.	Minimize soil erosion/stream sedimentation

**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 in Appendix A will be applied to this project.

- One-end suspension of logs will be required over as much of the area as practical to minimize damage to reserve trees, soil compaction, and displacement.
- Corridors used for the thinning will be reused for the salvage as to avoid additional ground disturbance where possible.
- Yarding corridors will average approximately 150 feet apart where they intersect boundaries and be 12 feet or less in width. Lateral yarding up to 75 feet from the skyline using an energized locking carriage will be required.
- Operators shall cease active road use where the surface is deeply rutted, or covered by a layer of mud, or where runoff from that road segment is causing a visible increase in the turbidity of streams as measured above and below the point where road runoff reaches the stream.
- The Authorized Officer may restrict log hauling to minimize water quality impacts, and/or require the purchaser to install silt fences, bark bags, or apply additional road surface rock.
- Waterbars will be constructed where they are determined to be necessary by the Authorized Officer.
- 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. per 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. **(R 62)**

**To Reduce the Spread of Noxious Weeds**

- All soil disrupting equipment and transportation vehicles (low-boys, trailers, dump trucks etc.) will be required to be clean and free of dirt and vegetation prior to arriving on BLM managed lands as directed by the contract administrator **(SP 1)**.
- All large areas of exposed mineral soil (cat/skid roads, landings), as determined by the contracting officer will be grass seeded with Oregon Certified (blue tagged) red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) 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 97)**.

**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**)
- A Stream Protection Zone (SPZ) where no cutting is permitted will be established along the one stream within the project area. The zone will be a minimum of approximately 75 feet from the high water mark as determined in the Shade Sufficiency Analysis, ODEQ Sept. 2005 TMDL standards, as revised Jan., 2010.
- No yarding will be permitted in or through the SPZ.
- Any fallen or root-sprung tree originating from inside the Riparian Reserve (within 210 feet of adjacent stream) will be retained as CWD.

### **To protect Threatened and Endangered and Bureau Sensitive Plants and Animals**

- The Resource Area Biologist and/or Botanist will be notified if any Threatened and Endangered and/or Special Status Plants, Animal or Fungi species are found within or adjacent project areas and appropriate mitigation applied according to bureau policies.

### **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 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 or where the fire risk is determined to be high, or site preparation is required to help facilitate tree planting.
- Large woody debris would not be piled.
- Hand piles and machine piles would 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 would be located as far as possible from reserved trees to minimize damage.
- Hand, machine, and landing piles would 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 would be incorporated in areas where fuel loading is relatively heavy, but not heavy enough to warrant piling and burning.
- Pullback of fuels would 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 would 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**

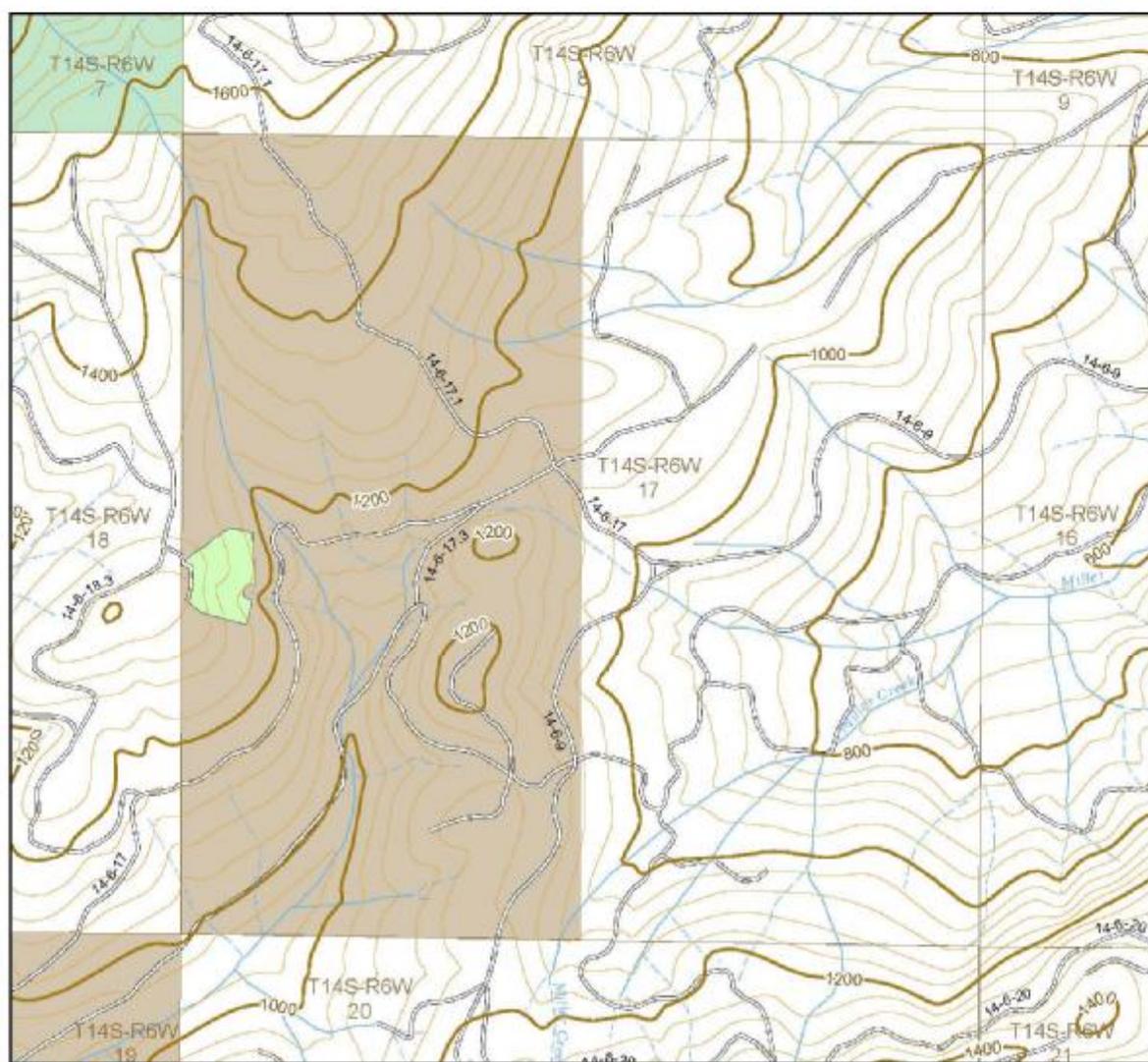
- The project area occurs in the Coast Range. Survey techniques are based on those described in Appendix D of the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resource on Lands Administered by

the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. A post-project survey will be conducted according to standards based on slope defined in the Protocol appendix. Ground disturbing work will be suspended if cultural material is discovered during project work until an archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery.



### Mainline II Salvage Project Map

T. 14 S., R. 6 W., Section 17, W.M. - MARYS PEAK RESOURCE AREA - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON



- Highway
- Major Access Road
- Minor Road
- Impassable Road
- Decommissioned Road
- Mainline II salvage unit

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



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**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Given the current uncertainty surrounding planning in western Oregon, the Salem District has designed projects to be consistent with the goals and objectives of the 1995 *Salem District Management Plan* (1995 ROD/RMP) and the 2008 *Salem Record of Decision for the Revision of Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management* (2008 ROD/RMP). The 1995 ROD/RMP is hereafter referred to in this CX as the RMP.

**Land Use Plan Name:** *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*  
**Date Approved/Amended:** May 1995. 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* (SM/ROD). The SM/ROD was further amended by the July 2011 Settlement Agreement.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): RMP pg.46: “Provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products and provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects, or disease, consistent with management objectives for other resources.”

**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. (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
<b>2.1/</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?  <b>Rationale:</b> Salvage harvest 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 salvage 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		No
<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?		No

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion		Yes	No
<p><b>Rationale:</b> 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. Salvage activities 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 mid-seral forest habitat provided by BLM-administered lands in the watershed.</p>			
<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>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The effects of the salvage activities are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Past experience has shown that the environmental effects of salvage activities in young forest stands 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>			
<p><b>2.4/</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?</p>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Salvage activities 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>			
<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>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Salvage activities 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>			
<p><b>2.6/</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</p>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> There are no cumulative effects associated with salvage activities therefore there are no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions. Salvage activities of these units will not alter the forest age class distribution of BLM lands in the watershed. Salvage activities will not create canopy gaps across an area sufficient to alter timing or magnitude of peak and base flows in the watershed. There will be no increase in road density or flow routing by roads which will affect stream flows. "No harvest" buffers on intermittent streams will preserve streamside shading and maintain stream temperatures and filter any sediment-laden over land flow. Dry season hauling will eliminate the potential for sediment transport from roads because, absent precipitation, there will be no vector for sediment transport.</p>			
<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>		No	

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion		Yes	No
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Surveys conducted by the BLM have not identified any cultural or historical resources that will be affected by the proposed salvage activities.</p>			
<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>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b>  <u>Fisheries:</u> The proposed project will have ‘no effect’ on Oregon Coast coho salmon. This ‘no effect’ is based on the distance upstream of the project area from ESA listed fish habitat (approximately 3.5 miles downstream).  <u>Wildlife:</u> No suitable habitat, critical habitat, or Reserve Pair Area habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl will be affected. There is no known active owl site within 1.5 miles to the project area. No suitable habitat, potential nesting structure, or critical habitat for the Marbled Murrelet will be affected. The project area was surveyed to protocol during the 2004 and 2005 with no murrelet detections. There is no known occupied marbled murrelet within 1 mile of the project area.  <u>Botany:</u> There are no known sites of any bureau special status fungi, vascular plants, lichen or bryophyte species within the project area and no critical or unique habitat areas are included within the project area.</p>			
<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>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Salvage activities follow all known Federal, State, or local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The proposed action 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 such as the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act and others.</p>			
<p><b>2.10/</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p>		No	
<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>			
<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>		No	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> There are no identified sacred, ceremonial or religious Indian sites within this area.</p>			
<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>		No	

Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The implementation of all BMPs will reduce suitable habitat (exposed mineral soil) for noxious weeds. The risk rating for adverse effects to the project area arising from the establishment of noxious weeds through the implementation of this project is low because; 1) The project area is considered small, 2) the noxious weeds expected to become established in the area are widespread throughout western Oregon, but more importantly, 3) The Marys Peak Resource Area has an integrated non-native plant program in place which allows for early detection and a rapid response, and 4) implementation of BMPs.</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 extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 (Table 2, above) apply.

I considered and reviewed the effects of the following additional elements of the environment required by management direction. Table 3 shows the effects of the proposed action on these elements of the environment.

<b>Table 3: Additional Elements of the Environment</b>		
Elements of the Environment	Status: Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected	Remarks
Aquatic Conservation Strategy	Not Affected	With the implementation of BMPs and PDFs, this project will not retard or prevent the attainment of any of the nine ACS objectives.
Energy (Executive Order 13212)	Not Affected	There are no known energy resources located in the permit area. The proposed action will have no adverse effect on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.
Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Cons. /Mgmt. Act)	Not Present	This project will have no effect on EFH.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	Not Present	No hazardous or solid wastes are on the lands proposed for salvage. No hazardous or solid wastes will be produced, stored, or disposed of with the proposed action.
Special Status (except T/E) or other rare or uncommon species/habitat	Not Present	There are no known Special Status species or suitable habitat within the area to be salvaged.

**D. Interdisciplinary Review**

Dave Calver	Team Lead	<i>DHC</i>
Debra Drake	Outdoor Recreation Planner	<i>DLD</i>
Ron Exeter	Botanist	<i>RLE</i>
Andy Frazier	Forester	<i>AFF</i>
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	<i>DSH</i>
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator	<i>SNL</i>
Kent Mortensen	Fuels Specialist	<i>KM</i>
Arlene Roux	Forester (Silviculture)	<i>AR</i>
Scott Snedaker	NEPA Coordinator	<i>SMS</i>
Heather Ulrich	Cultural Resources	<i>HAU</i>
Steve Wegner	Hydrology and Soil Science	<i>SJW</i>

**E. Signature**

Authorized Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Rich Hatfield

Title: Marys Peak Field Manager

Date: 3/13/12

**F. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Dave Calver, Forest Technician, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, and (503) 315-5953.

## Appendix A

### Water Quality Management Plan

#### Introduction

Water Quality Management on BLM-administered lands that are covered under the Mainline II Salvage CX 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 BLM. The 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 forest management activities undertaken by the Mainline II Salvage CX on the Marys Peak Resource Area.

**Table 1.0 Best Management Practices**

<b>BMP No.</b>	<b>Roads</b>
R62	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.
<b>BMP No.</b>	<b>Restoration</b>
RST10	Refuel equipment including chainsaws at least 100 feet away from water bodies to prevent delivery of contaminants to a water body.
<b>BMP No.</b>	<b>Surface Source Water for Drinking Water</b>
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.
<b>BMP No.</b>	<b>Spill Prevention and Abatement</b>
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 Documentation, DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2012-0006-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, harvest of approximately four acres of blowdown trees, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement the proposed harvest of approximately 50 windthrown trees, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation.

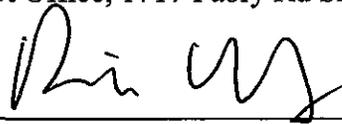
The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003, protests of this decision may be made within 15 days of the publication of a notice of decision in a newspaper of general circulation. The notice for this decision will appear in the *Gazette-Times* newspaper on March 20, 2012. 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 April 4, 2012. The regulations do not authorize the acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, written and printed original that is delivered to the physical address of the advertising BLM office.

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 shall serve a decision in writing on the protesting party (43 CFR 5003.3).

Implementation: This project will be implemented Spring 2012.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Dave Calver, Forest Technician, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, and (503) 315-5953.

Authorized Official: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3-13-2012

Name: Rich Hatfield

Title: Marys Peak Field Manager