

**DECISION RECORD**  
*Hot Stuff Sanitation Harvest*  
*DOI-BLM-OR-135-2012-CX-0008*  
Bureau of Land Management  
Border Field Office  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley Washington

**1. Background**

This action is on a 26 acre BLM tract located in T.37N., R.32E., Sec. 14. Douglas-fir and western larch trees are heavily infected with dwarf mistletoe, a vegetative parasite. The purpose of this action is to remove the infected trees as a means to limit further infection and capture value. Work will be accomplished through a Negotiated Timber Sale. Volume is less than 250 MBF and the purchaser has exclusive access.

**2. Decision**

It is my decision to implement the Hot Stuff Sanitation Harvest as described in the attached document (OR-135-2012-CX-0008) and shown on attached maps & drawings. These actions meet the need and will accomplish the purposes for action.

**3. Authority**

This decision is in accordance with 43 CFR 5402.0-6 .

**4. Rationale**

Over 90% of the tree stocking on this parcel is comprised of Douglas-fir. Nearly all of the dominant canopy in these stands is infected with dwarf mistletoe. This infection is causing growth reduction, top kill and mortality. To save new regeneration all of the heavily infected trees will be harvested. Commercial value will be captured while at the same time removing a majority of the infection sources.

The large ponderosa pine scattered throughout the parcel will not be harvested. All competing trees, regardless of size, will be removed within a 40 foot radius of ponderosa pine.

Efforts will be made to encourage the regeneration of western larch which is immune to Douglas-fir mistletoe.

As described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Record, this action would not have a significant effect on the human environment (individually or cumulatively).

## 6. Protest Procedures

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 Subpart 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer (Border Field Manager – see address in letterhead above) within 15 days of the publication date of the notice of decision.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (b) states: “Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail (email) or facsimile (fax) protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to Border Field Office will be accepted. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (c) states: “Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision or the notice of sale are not timely filed and shall not be considered.” Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to her. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision as permitted by regulations at 5003.3(f).

If no protest is received by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) within 15 days after publication of the decision notice, this decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, the project decision will be reconsidered in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available, and the Border Field Manager will issue a protest decision.

/S/ Linda Clark

May 24, 2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Clark  
Field Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachment:** Categorical Exclusion Documentation

# **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

## **A. Background**

*BLM Office: Border Field Office*

*Lease/Serial/Case File No.:*

*NEPA Log Number: OR-135-2012-0008*

*Proposed Action Title: Sanitation Harvest*

*Location of Proposed Action: T.37N., R.32E. sec. 14*

*Description of Proposed Action:*

This is a 26 acre sanitation commercial harvest timber sale. Overstory Douglas-fir is infected with dwarf mistletoe which is reducing growth, causing top kill and mortality in the heavily infected trees. This project aims to reduce mistletoe levels, capture commercial value, and retain the large legacy pines and Douglas-fir.

Group selection is the recommended method for treating these stands and still leave a large tree component. As the name implies the trees would be left in Groups. For instance where ponderosa pine is plentiful all the Douglas-fir would be cut and the group of pine retained. Groups of large Douglas-fir can also be retained, however, openings between groups would need to be larger than one tree height in size (80-100 feet). Openings can occur when most (or all) of the trees within a portion of the parcel are infected and subsequently harvested. There are few large DF on the parcel. Nearly all of these will be retained.

All competition, DF and WL, regardless of size would be removed within at least 40 feet of OG ponderosa pine. If competition is allowed to go unchecked these trees will die out, the genetic seed source along with them. There is no diameter limit for the harvest of Douglas-fir. Nearly all are heavily infected. Tree spacing varies on the parcel from 15-25 feet. Harvesting will increase the spacing to 35-45 feet with a stocking of 21-35 leave trees per acre.

The western larch is in overall good condition with very little dwarf mistletoe. It is scattered unevenly throughout the parcel. Where feasible DF groups should be near as possible to larch to limit DF dwarf mistletoe seed dispersal and provide a seed source for larch regeneration which is immune to Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe.

Establishment of western larch will be encouraged through scarification and exposure of mineral soil required for regeneration.

There is less than 0.5 mile of road building on private ground to access the BLM parcel. There is no road building on BLM land.

Damage to aspen will be avoided. Logging of DF and other species will be allowed in aspen stands. Removing competition and scarifying the ground in aspen stands will help promote sprouting and clone survival.

There are a very few snags on the parcel. All will be retained unless they pose a hazard to the logging operation.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

*Option 1 (conforms with LUP):* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision, May 1987, pages 22-23

OR

*(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP)* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

**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)(9): Commercial and non-commercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or disease not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 miles of temporary road construction. Such activities:

(a) May include removal of infested/infected trees and adjacent live uninfested/uninfected trees as determined necessary to control the spread of insects or disease; and

(b) May include incidental removal of live or dead trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing.

(c) May include temporary roads which are defined as roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the BLM transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. Temporary roads shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources; and

(d) Shall require the treatment of temporary roads constructed or used so as to permit the reestablishment, by artificial or natural means, of vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

(a) Felling and harvesting trees infested with mountain pine beetles and immediately adjacent uninfested trees to control expanding spot infestations; and

(b) Removing or destroying trees infested or infected with a new exotic insect or disease, such as emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, or sudden oak death pathogen.

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 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as shown in the following table:

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b> The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**F: Signature**

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(Authorizing Official Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Name: Linda A. Clark

Title: Manager Border Field Office

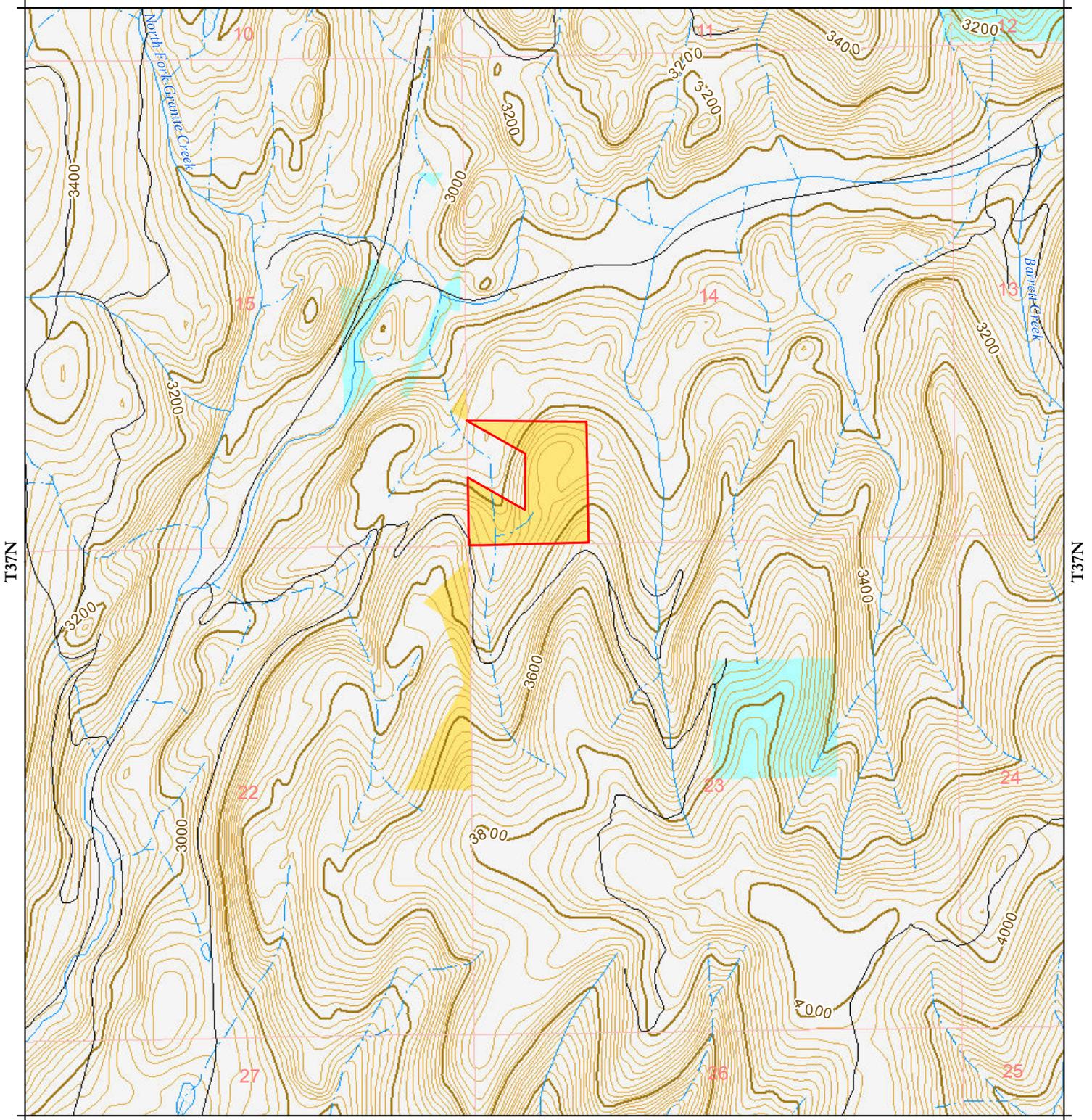
**G. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact

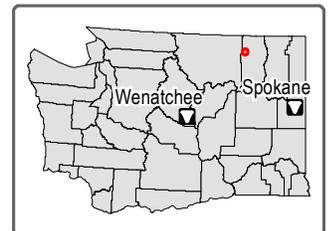
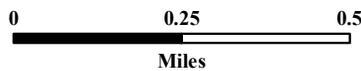
**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

# Hot Stuff Timber Sale

R32E



-  Sale Parcel
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  WA Dept. of Natural Resources



Aug 2012

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