

DECISION RECORD

Tekoa Mountain Diseased Tree Removal

DOI-BLM-OR-135-2012-0006

Bureau of Land Management

Border Field Office

1103 N. Fancher

Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Decision and Rationale

It is my decision to implement the Tekoa Mountain Diseased Tree Removal project as described in the attached document (DOI-BLM-OR-135-2012-0006) and shown on attached maps & drawings. These actions meet the need and will accomplish the purposes for action.

Forest Health issues have been identified at Tekoa mountain that pose a risk to surrounding healthy timber stands. The Tekoa Mountain Diseased Tree Removal will eliminate the identified infected trees. As described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation, it is not anticipated that the project actions will have significant effects.

/s/ Scott Pavey

12/2/11

Scott Pavey,
Acting Field Manager
Border Field Office

Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

Any party that is adversely affected and determined to be a party to the case, may appeal the implementation of the proposed action to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the address below) within 30 days of receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision is in error.

An appellant may also file a petition for a stay (suspension) of this decision during the time that the appeal is being reviewed by the Board pursuant to Part 4, Subpart B, 43 CFR Part 4.21. The petition for a stay must accompany the notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient

justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must be submitted to each party named in this decision, to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. The appellant has the burden of proof of demonstrating that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

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.: N/A

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-OR-135-2012-0006

Proposed Action Title: Tekoa Mountain diseased tree removal

Location of Proposed Action: Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington, T20N, R45E, sec. 2

*Description of Proposed Action: There are 13 trees (12 Douglas fir and one ponderosa pine) that are infested with mistletoe and need to be removed to help stop the spread of the disease. Dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium* sp.) are leafless parasitic plants that infect several species of conifers. Dwarf mistletoe produces rootlike structures that grow into the living tissue just under the bark (phloem) and in the wood (xylem) where they extract both nutrients and water from their host.*

The proposed action would be completed by 12/31/2011.

No roads would be constructed or renovated under this proposed action.

The contractor would fell the trees and scatter the branches to give it a more natural look.

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): Manage forest land to minimize losses or damage to commercial tree species from insects and disease. (BLM 1987, p. 22)

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

BLM Categorical Exclusions. C. Forestry. 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 mile of temporary road construction. (A) May include removal of infested/infected trees and adjacent live uninfested/uninfected trees as determined necessary to control the spread of insects and disease.

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:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
(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

/s/ Scott Pavey

12/2/2011

(Authorizing Official Signature)

(Date)

Name: James Scott Pavey

Title: Acting Border Field Manager

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact

Rob Beamer

NRS S.C.E.P.

1103 N. Fancher

Spokane Valley WA, 99216

509-536-1242

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

Exhibit A

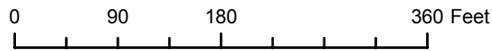
Spokane Regional Communications Systems (SRECS) Communications Site Right-of-Way - WAOR 66923

R45E



R45E

October 13, 2011



Scale 1:2,000

Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington
T. 20 N., R. 45 E., sec. 2, lot 1
Approximately 37 feet by 66 feet
Communications Site Area and Access Road
Total Acres - .6



Legend

- Comm. Site Area
- Transmission Line
- Road
- BLM Lands



USDI – Bureau of Land Management
Spokane District Office
1103 N. Fancher Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99212
(509) 536-1200

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