



BLM/Forest Service NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Agencies Move Forward With Port-Orford-cedar Decision

Medford, OR – Taking a more aggressive approach toward limiting the spread of a Port-Orford-cedar (POC) root disease, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy signed a Record of Decision (ROD) adopting new POC management direction. A 45-day period for filing appeals to the Forest Service ROD closes June 1.

The decision provides additional POC root disease considerations to agency transportation planning, special forest products programs, off-highway vehicle area planning, and other public uses. It describes available treatments, provides a risk key to help managers determine best protection measures, and places specific emphasis on protecting 144 two-thousand acre watersheds that do not currently have the disease. It will help the agency focus its efforts on areas where it can be more effective in limiting the spread of the root disease.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management released a joint environmental impact statement in January that is the first formal range-wide effects examination of a unified disease control strategy shared between the two agencies.

The new direction amends the Siskiyou's 1989 forest land and resource management plan improving Port-Orford-cedar management direction. The BLM expects to issue a similar decision in May covering their portion of the range. The decision will not change any NW Forest Plan land use allocations.

For more information, contact Mary Marrs at (541) 858-2211 or Alan Hoffmeister at (541) 751-4249, or browse "www.or.blm.gov/planning/Port-Orford-Cedar_SEIS".

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