

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT OFFICE  
MARYS PEAK RESOURCE AREA

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW - NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**

**Project: Deadwood Highway Hazard Tree Removal**

**Date: 11-28-03**

**Categorical Exclusion Number: OR-080-04-04**

**Location:** T. 15 S., R 8 W., Section 3, and T. 14 S., R. 8 W., Section 7, Will. Mer. in the Five Rivers/Lobster Creek 5th field watershed and the Lower Alsea River 5th field watershed.

**Land Use Allocation:** Late Successional Reserve, Riparian Reserve

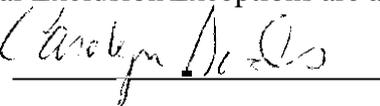
**Project Description:** Cutting and removal of approximately 198 Douglas-fir trees and 138 red alder and big leaf maple trees that have been identified by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) as hazardous to traffic on the Deadwood Highway. The trees would be sold to a purchaser hired by the State of Oregon. The average diameter of trees to be cut and removed is 14.8 inches diameter breast height (DBH). Diameters range from 6 inches to 38 DBH. The approximate Douglas-fir volume is estimated to be 38 thousand board feet (MBF) and the hardwood volume is estimated to be 11 MBF (red alder). Additionally, 4 to 6 snags have been identified by ODOT as hazardous to traffic on Highway 34. The snags are in poor condition, are located on steep slopes, and no volume recovery is expected. The snags would be cut and left in place as much as practicable to ensure public safety. Unstable material would be hauled to a disposal site.

**Land Use Plan Conformance:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource & Management Plan* (RMP), dated May 1995. This action follows management direction described on page 17 of the RMP which allows for .."Fall(ing) trees along rights of way if they are a hazard to public safety."

**NEPA Review:**

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 D M 6, Appendix 5.4 Category C (2) which allows for **"Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads."** The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 D M 2, Appendix 2, apply. Review Summaries for Critical Elements of the Human Environment, RMP Compliance, and Categorical Exclusion Exceptions are attached.

Reviewed by: 

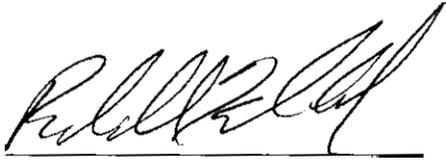
Date: 11/28/03

**Decision:**

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that it complies with criteria for the categorical exclusions as described under the Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM 2.3A. None of the exceptions to categorical exclusion apply. No further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the measures identified below.

**Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:**

No yarding equipment will be allowed to operate off of paved roads.

Authorized Official:   
Actis Field Manager  
Marys Peak Resource Area

Date: 11/28/03

**List of Interdisciplinary Team Members**  
(who reviewed this categorical exclusion)

| Affected Resource   | Name            | Initial | Date            |
|---|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Botany  | Ron Exeter      | RE      | OCT<br>24, 2003 |
| Cultural Resources  | Tom Vanderhoof  | TMV     | 11-25-03        |
| Ecology (including wetlands)  | Amy Haynes      | AH      | 11/25/03        |
| Fire Hazard/Risk  | Tom Tomczyk     | TT      | 11/24/03        |
| Fisheries   | Steve Liebhardt | SL      | 11/24/03        |
| Hydrology, Water Quality, Soils (including floodplains)   | Ashley La Forge | ALF     | 11/24/03        |
| Natural Resources Supervisor  | Randy Gould     | RG      | 11/28/03        |
| Other Resources/ NEPA   | Carolyn Sands   | CS      | 11/28/03        |
| Recreation, Visual and Rural Interface Resources (including Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness) | Traci Meredith  | TMM     | 11/26/03        |
| Riparian Structural Diversity   | Amy Haynes      | AH      | 11/25/03        |
| Wildlife  | Scott Hopkins   | SH      | 11/24/03        |

### CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

This table summarizes environmental features which the Bureau of Land Management is required by law or policy to consider in all Environmental Documentation (BLM Handbook H-1790-1, Appendix 5: Critical Elements of the Human Environment).

| Critical Elements Of The Human Environment                                       | Status: (i.e., Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected) | Remarks  |
|--|--|--|
| Air Quality  | Not Affected   |  |
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concern  | Not present  |  |
| Cultural, Historic, Paleontological  | Not present  |  |
| Prime or Unique Farm Lands   | Not present  |  |
| Flood Plains   | Not present  |  |
| Native American Religious Concerns   | Not present  |  |
| Threatened or Endangered Species or Habitat (including critical habitat)         | Plant  | Not present  |
|  | Wildlife   | Not affected   |
|  | Fish   | Not affected   |
| Hazardous or Solid Wastes  | Not affected   |  |
| Water Quality (Surface and Ground) (including stream temperature, sedimentation) | Not affected   | See ACS Review Summary   |
| Wetlands/Riparian Zones  | Not affected   |  |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers   | Not present  |  |
| Wilderness   | Not present  |  |
| Invasive, Nonnative Species  | Affected   | Ground disturbance will be minimized and all operations would be from existing roads. Low risk of effects from the establishment of noxious weeds. Impacts would be minimal. |
| Environmental Justice  | Not affected   |  |
| Adverse Impacts on the National Energy Policy                                    | Not affected   |  |

**RMP COMPLIANCE REVIEW SUMMARY**  
(Salem District Resource Management Plan 1995)

The following tables summarize other elements of the Human environment which the Bureau of Land Management is required by law or policy to consider in Environmental Documentation.

| <b>Other Elements Of The Human Environment</b>   |  | <b>Status: (i.e., Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected)</b> | <b>Remarks</b>   |
|--|--|---|--|
| Coastal zone   |  | Not affected  | The proposed project is within the coastal zone but would occur away from streams and cause little to no disturbance to hillslope stability.   |
| Fish Species with Bureau Status and Essential Fish Habitat   |  | Not affected  | See "Coastal zone"   |
| Fire Hazard/Risk   |  | Not affected  |  |
| Late successional and old growth species habitat and ecosystems  |  | Not affected  | Only a few older trees (not old-growth) would be removed, leaving the rest of the stand intact and unaffected.   |
| Mining claims, mineral leases, etc   |  | Not present   |  |
| Recreation   |  | Not affected  | Recreation uses are hunting and driving for pleasure.  |
| Rural Interface Areas  |  | Not affected  | Not in RIA.  |
| Soils (Site Productivity)  |  | Not affected  |  |
| Special Areas (Within or Adjacent)   |  | Not present   | Not in Special Area, nor adjacent to.  |
| Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Plant Species/Habitat (including Survey and Manage) (RMP pages 28-33, Appendix B-1:1-B-2:4 )     |  | Not affected  | There are no known sites of any Special Status or Special Attention plant or fungi species within the project area.  |
| Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Wildlife Species/Habitat (including Survey and Manage) (RMP pages 28-33, Appendix B-1:1- B-2:4 ) |  | Not affected  |  |
| Visual Resources   |  | Not affected  | The viewshed would remain intact.  |
| Water Resources  | Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives | Not affected, See also ACS Review Summary.                    | The proposed action would not retard or prevent attainment of any of the 9 ACS objectives, described in the RMP (pp 5-6), because no disturbance to water quality or hydrologic function is anticipated. |

| Other Elements Of The Human Environment |   | Status: (i.e., Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected) | Remarks   |
|---|---|--|---|
|   | Other water components (DEQ 303d listed stream, DEQ 319 assessment, water quantity) | Not affected   | Lobster Creek is 303d listed from its mouth to headwaters for exceeding temperature standards. The main-stem Alsea River is also 303d listed from its mouth to the north/south confluence for exceeding temperature standards. Both streams are included in the 319 assessment for having moderate water quality conditions by observation, affecting fish and aquatic habitat. |
|   | Downstream Beneficial Uses (Salem FEIS pp. 3-9)                                     | Not affected   | There are in-stream water rights along the Alsea River adjacent to the project area. There are domestic, irrigation, storage, and fish rearing rights approximately ¾ mile downstream from the project area in the Alsea River. There are surface water rights and an irrigation right for Lobster Creek approximately ½ mile downstream from the project area.                 |
|   | Key Watershed (ACS component 2)   | Not affected   | The Five Rivers/Lobster Creek watershed is a key watershed. The proposed project would occur away from streams and cause little to no disturbance to hillslope stability.   |

| <b>AQUATIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES REVIEW SUMMARY (RMP pages 5-6)</b>  |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>ACS Objective</b>  | <b>Does the project retard or prevent attainment of this ACS objective?<br/>Yes /No / Not Affected</b> | <b>Remarks</b>  |
| 1) Maintain and restore distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape features to ensure protection of aquatic systems.  | No   | Because the project would occur away from streams and cause little to no erosion potential or disturbance to hillslope stability, it is likely to maintain watershed features in their current condition. |
| 2) Maintain and restore spatial connectivity between watersheds.  | No   | The project would not affect watershed spatial connectivity.  |
| 3) Maintain and restore physical integrity of the aquatic system including shorelines, banks and bottom configurations.   | No   | No action is proposed in or adjacent to streams.  |
| 4) Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.   | No   | The project would have no effect on water quality.  |
| 5) Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which the system evolved.   | No   | Because of the small number of trees being removed or dropped adjacent to the road, no measurable sediment disturbance is anticipated.  |
| 6) Maintain and restore in-stream flows.  | No   | The project would have not effect on stream flow.   |
| 7) Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of flood plain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.  | No   | No floodplains, meadows, or wetlands would be affected by the project.  |
| 8) Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian zones and wetlands to provide thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, and appropriate rates of bank erosion, channel migration and CWD accumulations. | No   | Because of the small number of trees to be cut, the majority of riparian vegetation would remain intact and continue to function.   |
| 9) Maintain and restore habitats to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian dependent species.  | No   | Riparian habitat is not likely to be affected by the project because the majority of vegetation would remain intact and the project would occur along the roadside.                                       |

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXCEPTION REVIEW**

This table shows the exceptions to Categorical Exclusions that are listed in the Department of Interior Departmental Manual 5.16 DM 2, Appendix 2. An Environmental Document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) must be prepared for any action for which any of these exceptions apply:

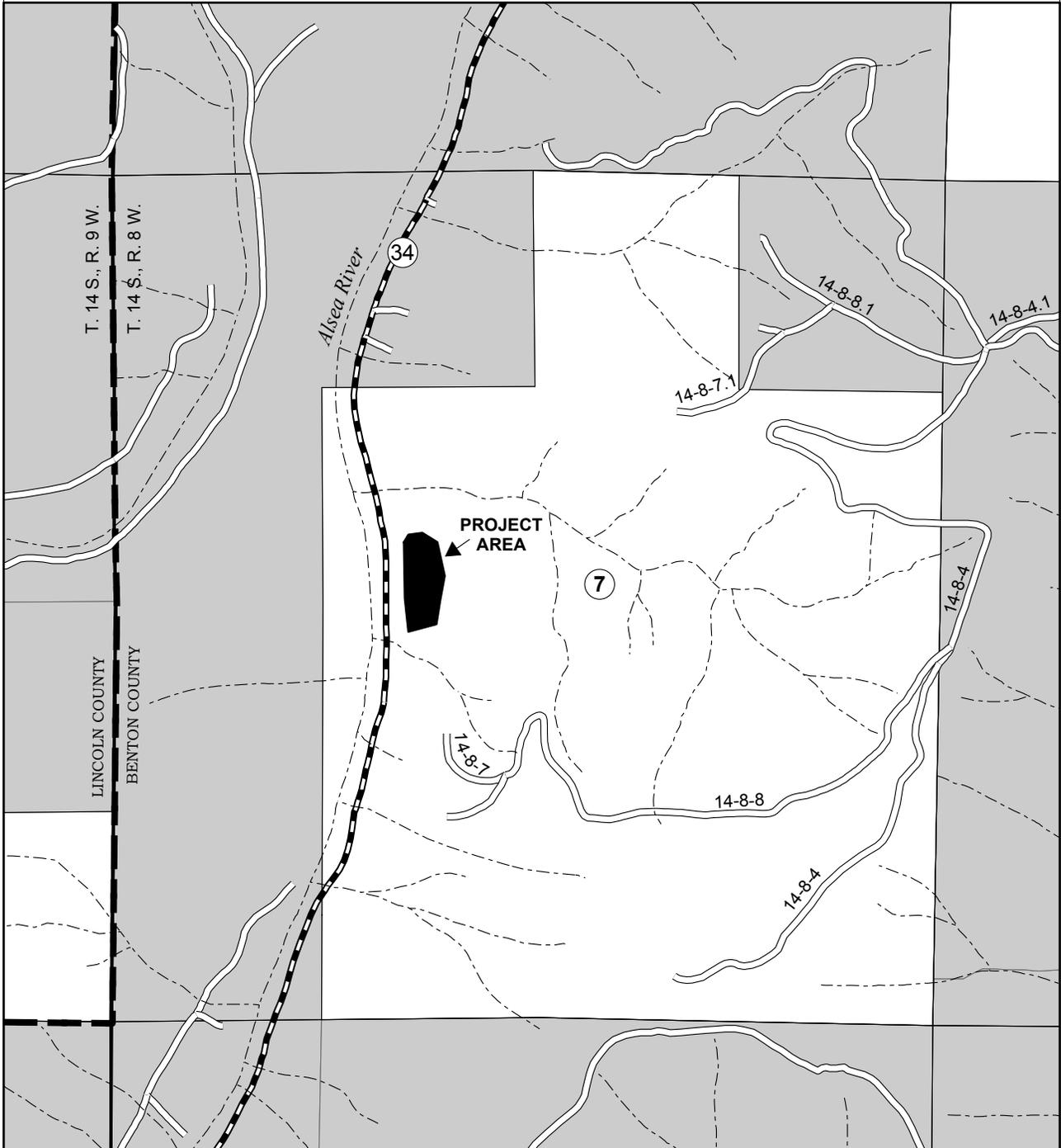
| <b>Exception</b>   | <b>Does it Apply? Yes/ No</b> | <b>Remarks (Potential for Exception)</b>  |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Adverse effects on listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat   | No                            | The proposed action will have no adverse effect on listed species or their habitat.   |
| Highly controversial environmental Effects   | No                            | Based on past experience from this type of activity, there are no predicted environmental effects from the proposed action which are considered to be highly controversial. |
| Related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects   | No                            | The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.  |
| Significant adverse effects on public health & safety  | No                            | All proposed activities follow establish rules concerning health and safety.  |
| Adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics such as cultural resources, wetlands, ecologically significant or critical areas. | No                            | No unique geographical characteristics are within the project area or affected by this project.   |
| Highly uncertain and potentially significant effects or involve unique or unknown environmental  | No                            | Past experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.   |
| Establish precedent or decision for future action  | No                            | Similar actions have taken place throughout the district and there is no evidence that this type of project would establish a precedent or decision for future action.      |
| Adverse Effects on Properties Listed or Eligible for National Register of Historic Places  | No                            | No eligible or listed properties are affected.  |
| Requires compliance with EO 11988 (Floodplain) EO 11990 (Wetlands) or Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act                               | No                            | There are no floodplains or wetlands within the proposed project area.  |
| Threatens to Violate Federal, State, Local, or Tribal Law for Environmental Protection   | No                            | No federal, state, local, or tribal laws that would be violated by the proposed action.   |

# Deadwood Highway Hazard Tree Removal

## T. 14 S., R. 8 W., Section 7



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 Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.  
 Marys Peak Resource Area, December 4, 2003



# Deadwood Highway Hazard Tree Removal

## T. 15 S., R. 8 W., Section 3



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 Marys Peak Resource Area, December 4, 2003

