



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Northwest Oregon District Office
1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306
<http://www.blm.gov>



Dear Interested Party:

MAY 10 2021

In response to the catastrophic Riverside Fire (Fire) in September 2020, the Cascades Field Office Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) roadside hazard tree removal for which it will conduct a categorical exclusion (CX) review consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This CX review will evaluate impacts of the proposed activities on the environment. Proposed activities would include roadside hazard tree removal to address public safety, hazards to property and prevent undue degradation of roadside resource values. *See* Exhibit 1 Fire perimeter¹ showing land use allocations. The Project area would be up to 4200 acres within the Riverside Fire (Fire) perimeter located in T. 4 S., R. 4 E.; T. 4 S., R. 5 E.; T. 4 S., R. 6 E.; T. 5 S., R. 3 E.; T. 5 S., R. 5 E.; T. 5 S., R. 6 E.; T. 6 S., R. 3 E.; T. 6 S., R. 4 E.; T. 6 S., R. 5 E.; T. 6 S., R. 6 E., and include roads prioritized for eliminating the highest number of hazard trees interfacing public use.

The focus of treatments would be to fell and deck trees that are unstable or have had structural integrity compromised by the Fire, risking partial or total failure. BLM would remove all dead and dying trees³ within striking/rolling distance of the road with an approximate average distance of 160 feet (based on lidar analysis⁴) from each side of roads consistent with the current land use plan and Oregon OSHA safety requirements. Most trees that have already failed, if not already decked, would be decked and removed. Depending on LUA and tree condition, some trees would be sold and hauled off site; others would be used for fish habitat restoration⁵; and some would be left as down wood and coarse woody debris. Trees marked for commercial sale would be decked adjacent to existing roads or on old landing sites, road turnouts, rock pits and day-use parking areas. The goal of this Project would be to strike a balance between managing for healthy trees with low-failure potential and encouraging forest revegetation that is a safe and natural environment along these roads.

I would appreciate your substantive written scoping comments on this Project by May 25, 2021. Written comments may be sent to John Huston, Cascades Field Manager, BLM Northwest Oregon District, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, or submitted by email to blm_or_no_publiccomments_nepa@blm.gov adding in the subject line, Riverside Roadside Hazard Tree Removal. Comments may also be submitted via ePlanning by clicking the "Participate Now" section. Additional information can be found under the "Documents" section on the left side of the ePlanning webpage at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/eplanning> for Project # DOI-BLM-ORWA-N010-2021-0010-CX. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Northwest Oregon District Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of environmental analysis documents or related correspondence. In-person public access to the BLM Northwest Oregon District Salem Office location is by appointment only, per BLM national and state of Oregon COVID-19 guidance.

¹ A fire perimeter is the entire outer edge or boundary of a fire.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. If you have any questions, please contact René Wahl, at rwahl@blm.gov or 503-375-5646.

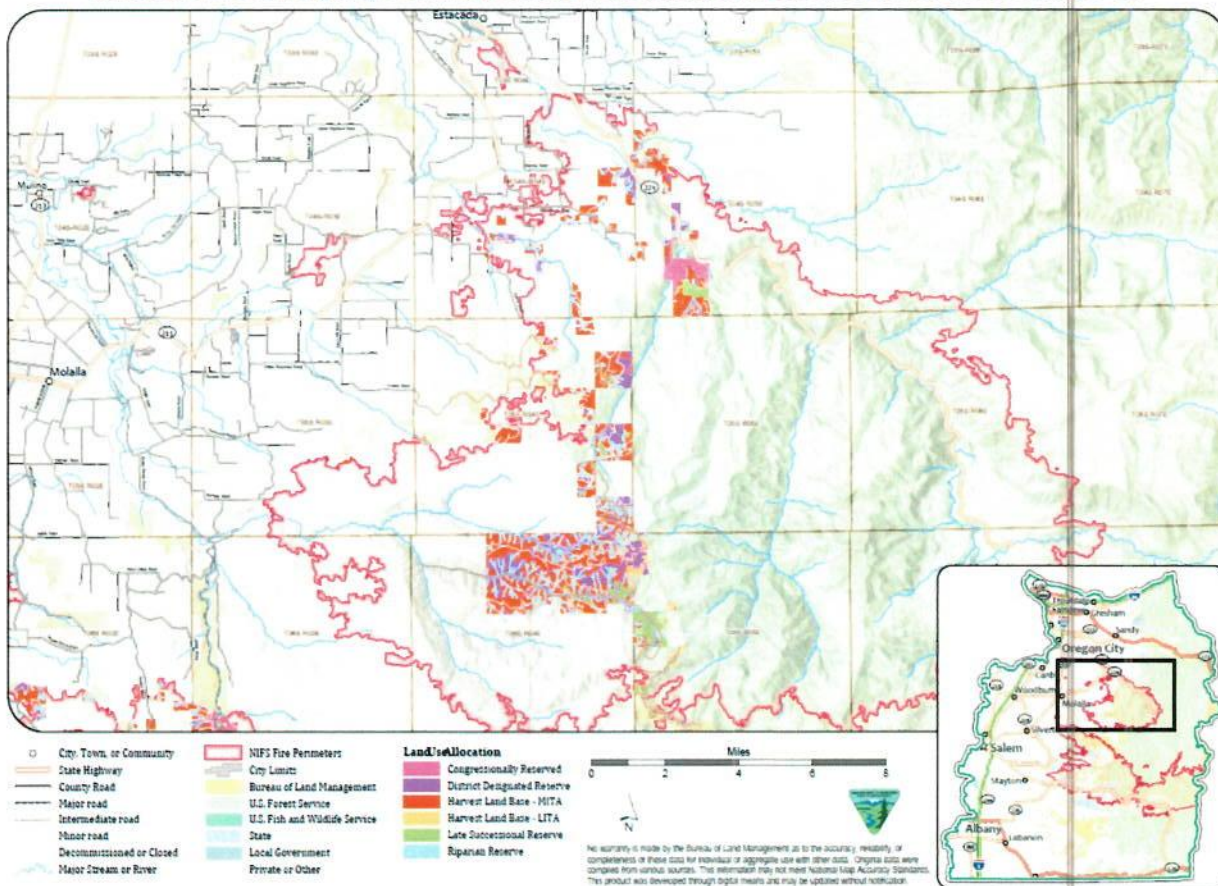
Sincerely,

 **ACTING**
John Huston
Field Manager, Cascades Field Office

Enclosures

Exhibit 1

Riverside Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Roadside Hazard Tree Removal CX



----- Fold in half here. Tape or staple open edges. -----

Please
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stamp
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Attention: John Huston
Field Manager
BLM – Northwest Oregon District
Cascades Field Office
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306