



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NORTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT**

**Cascades Field Office
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, Oregon 97306**

Categorical Exclusion Review



I. PROJECT TITLE: Riverside Post-Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Roadside Hazard Tree Removal Project: DOI-BLM-ORWA-N010-2021-0010-CX

II. LOCATION: 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., Sections within the Riverside Fire perimeter, Clackamas County, Willamette Meridian, Oregon

III. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (LUAs): Congressional Reserves (Wild and Scenic Rivers) (431 acres¹); District-Designated Reserves (DDR) (1,324 acres); DDR-Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (Soosap Meadows) (212 acres); DDR-Lands With Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) (194 acres); DDR-Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC) (1,251 acres); Harvest Land Base (HLB) Low Intensity Timber Area (LITA) (414 acres); HLB-Moderate Intensity Timber Area (MITA) (5,472); Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) (973 acres); and Riparian Reserve (RR) (2,327 acres); total burned BLM-managed Riverside acres, 12,597, **4200 acres or less total roadside hazard tree removal** (see Figure 1, map of Fire perimeter showing LUAs).

IV. BACKGROUND

The Riverside Fire (Fire) started September 8, 2020, in the Mt Hood National Forest during a severe East wind event that began on September 7th. This wind event caused the explosive growth of existing fires and led to the start of several fires across Western Oregon due to downed power lines or other ignition sources. The Riverside Fire is listed as human-caused².

The Fire quickly grew to approximately 133,000 acres by September 13th, with the Riverside and Beachie Creek fires burning within one air-mile apart. It was anticipated the two massive fires would merge, but they did not. When the Fire stabilized its growth at approximately 138,182 acres by the middle of October, it had burned within a half-mile from the town of Estacada. The Fire area consists of forest land that burned with various intensities on Forest Service, BLM, and private lands, as well as private farmland and property outside Estacada and surrounding communities. Approximately 50 homes and over 100 structures were lost. Some closures remain in place in the Mt Hood National Forest and on BLM and private lands to keep the public safe from hazards in the fire areas. It is estimated that 12,597 acres of BLM land of various land use allocations were affected by the Riverside Fire (see Section III *supra*).

¹ No treatments are planned within Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segments. This LUA is included to show WSR segments within BLM managed lands in the Fire perimeter.

² <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7174/>

V. PROPOSED ACTION

The Cascades Field Office therefore proposes to implement emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) roadside hazard/danger tree removal on approximately 51 total miles of roads on BLM managed lands (2,241 acres), of which 40.3 miles have been identified as priority (Figure 2). Simply informing the public that dangerous conditions exist on BLM roads is insufficient. The BLM has a responsibility to provide safe travel conditions for employees, the public, contractors, and reciprocal rights users on BLM-managed roads. During tree failure events, falling trees or parts may pose a danger to people or vehicles that may be struck by them. BLM needs to minimize potential for injury/damage from falling trees³. A danger/hazard tree for purposes of this Categorical Exclusion (CX), is defined as any tree within striking distance of a BLM road within the Fire perimeter.

The focus of treatments would be to fell (or tip) 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 trees⁴ within striking distance of the road with an approximate average distance of 160 feet (based on lidar analysis⁵) from each side of roads. Some snags would be left where standing. Depending on LUA and tree condition, some trees would be sold and hauled off site; others would be used for fish habitat restoration⁶; 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 vegetation that is a safe and natural environment along these roads. Treatments would continue through October 2023 as necessary.

Due to the enormous number of burned trees along roads within the Fire perimeter and associated safety concerns, time is of the essence to remove dead and dying trees to prevent them from striking the road. BLM would follow the operationally feasible rubric for tree mortality along roads by species as outlined in the *Post-fire Assessment of Tree Status and Marking Guidelines for Conifers in Oregon and Washington*, (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd814664.pdf), United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Report Number R6-FHP-RO-2020-02, which is incorporated in full by reference herein. Under these Guidelines, trees should be evaluated for crown scorch (percent of burned crown) and bark char (burn depth and bole volume) within the first year after fire. BLM would determine if a tree has a greater than a 50% chance of persistence, using the Guidelines rubric, which is summarized in the following

³ Under Oregon OSHA Division 7, 437-007-0500 Roads (6)(a), on portions of roads under the direct control of the BLM, *all* danger trees that can fall or slide onto roadways must be felled.

⁴ For purposes of this CX, a dying tree is defined as a standing tree that has been severely damaged by fire and that in the judgment of an experienced forest professional or someone technically trained for the work, is likely to die within a few years. BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1, Appendix 4, page 143.

⁵ Tree heights range from 151 feet to 200 feet with a mean of 170 feet. For some sites, there may be trees taller than 160 feet that have potential to fall and hit people or vehicles on roads. In these instances, BLM would adjust roadside buffers.

⁶ Future instream restoration projects would have separate NEPA reviews.

white paper (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/8341/assessing-post-fire-survivability-trees-summary.pdf>). *Table 1* provides metrics BLM would use to evaluate whether trees >20in dbh are dead or dying for conifer species affected by the Riverside Fire.

Further step-down implementation guidance of this research can be found in the Post –fire tree mortality document from Oregon Department of Forestry (November 2020). An electronic version of this publication is available at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/post-fire-tree-mortality.pdf>.

Initial field reconnaissance indicated that most roadside trees are dead (100 percent crown scorch) in moderate and high severity areas of the Fire. The BLM anticipates that all trees along the majority of road segments would need to be removed for safety reasons. The 2016 *Field Guide for Danger Tree identification and Response along Forest Roads and Work Sites in Western Oregon* (R6-NR-TP-021-2016) recommends that after severe fire events almost all trees should be removed along roads considering the danger to the public (*Field Guide*, Table 3, pages 36-37). *Table 2* shows roads along which BLM would focus efforts to remove dead and dying trees under this ES CX. Additional roads may be treated if during activities, staff identify high numbers of hazard trees on Riverside Fire roads not listed in *Table 2*. *Table 3* shows treatments proposed by LUA acres.

Table 1: Dead or Dying Tree Metrics

Species	Crown Scorch (percent)	Bark Char (percent)
<i>Abies grandis</i> (grand fir)	60	75
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> (Douglas fir)	65	75
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> (western hemlock)	20	90
<i>Thuja plicata</i> (western red cedar)	60	75

Log decks and felled trees would be considered a road hazard in any of the following situations:

- Logs are hindering sight distance ([BLM Road Design Handbook 9113-1](#), Illustrations 4-8);
- Logs are protruding into the roadway;
- Logs are placed on turnouts or the drivable shoulder, impeding a motorist’s ability to avoid oncoming traffic (Proven Safety Countermeasures: Roadside Design Improvements at Curves, FHWA-SA-17-061); and
- The decked logs are potentially unstable and due to their location, present risk of sliding or rolling into the roadway if movement occurs.

Log decks or felled timber would also be considered public safety hazards, hazardous to management activities, or detrimental to resources, and would be removed if:

- Log decks are preventing regular road maintenance or are impeding the drainage structures of the road system. This would include logs located in ditch lines, around culvert inlets and/or outlets, or logs that are causing water to pool or channel in away other than designed;
- Their continued presence elevates safety issues by impeding additional hazard tree removal efforts and efficient forestry operations;
- They present a fuels or fire hazard as fuel loading from downed logs is high and can increase fire severity and resistance to control;
- They impede reforestation or revegetation and stabilization efforts by hindering safe and efficient forestry operations for the BLM, contractors, or permittees; and
- Log deck presence on and along the road encourages timber theft, through illegal firewood cutting or log removal due to access and availability to the general public.

Other stabilization and rehabilitation activities under this Project would include repairing and installing essential erosion control structures; replacing or repairing existing culverts, roads, trails, fences, and minor facilities; constructing protection fences; planting, seeding, and mulching as site-specific resources and conditions warrant.

Table 2: Priority Roads Proposed for Treatment (See Figure 2, map showing priority roads)

BLM Road Number	BLM Road name	Total Miles
4-4E-21.0	Bedframe Rd	0.1
4-4E-21.1	Bedspring Rd	0.1
4-4E-23.0	Little Cedar Cr Rd	0.7
4-4E-23.1	Clear Cedar Rd	0.2
4-4E-23.2	Habelt South Rd	0.5
4-4E-24.1	North Fork River Rd	0.6
4-4E-24.2	West Dodge Spur Rd	0.2
4-4E-24.3	East Dodge Spur Rd	0.1
4-4E-26.0	Habelt Extension Rd	1.3
4-4E-26.1	Pbtf Clear Creek Rd	0.3
4-4E-28.1	Jay Rd	0.3
4-4E-28.3	Bedstead Rd	0.5
4-4E-35.0	Its Clear To Me Rd	0.1
4-5E-19.0	Camp Dahlquist Rd	0.1
4-5E-29.1	Memaloose Creek Rd	0.3
4-5E-30.0	Santa Cruze Rd	0.9
4-5E-30.2	South Spring Rd	0.4
4-5E-30.3	North Spring Rd	0.2
4-5E-32.0	Memaloose Spur	0.4
5-3E-24.0	East Canyon Creek Rd	0.1
5-4E-1.0	South Fork Rd	1.2
5-4E-10.1	Goat Mtn Curve Rd	0.3
5-4E-10.2	Goat Mtn Dr	0.0
5-4E-10.5	Circle Burner Rd	0.0
5-4E-12.4	Hillockburn Rd	0.6

5-4E-12.6	Backdown Rd	0.4
5-4E-14.1	J-Rd	0.3
5-4E-14.13	All Along Rd	0.1
5-4E-14.2	Quarry Rd	0.1
5-4E-14.5	Connection Spur	0.1
5-4E-14.6	No Need Rd	0.1
5-4E-14.7	Hide Out Rd	0.2
5-4E-14.8	Hide Me Rd	0.2
5-4E-15.0	Hillockburn Rd	0.3
5-4E-2.0	Mary Jane Rd	0.0
5-4E-2.1	Clear Creek Lower Spur	0.2
5-4E-2.2	Upper Clear Creek Spur	0.0
5-4E-23.0	Goat Mtn Rd	0.0
5-4E-24.0	Aircraft Rd	1.2
5-4E-24.1	Twenty Four Pointone	0.6
5-4E-24.2	South Fork Clackamas Cree	0.1
5-4E-24.4	U Bet Rd	0.1
5-4E-24.5	Dead Pine Rd	0.1
5-4E-25.0	Helens Lake Rd	0.5
5-4E-25.1	Pitchfork Rd	1.6
5-4E-25.2	Williams Lake East	0.3
5-4E-26.0	Helens Lake Loop Rd	1.7
5-4E-26.1	011 Rd	0.2
5-4E-26.2	Williams Lake North	0.4
5-4E-3.2	Jackson Ck Rd	0.4
5-4E-36.1	Sec 36 1 Spur	0.1
5-4E-36.2	Sec 36 2 Spur	0.4
5-4E-36.4	Timothy Patch Rd	0.5
5-4E-36.5	Dead Rat Rd	0.2
5-4E-36.6	Big Landing Rd	0.2
5-4E-5.0	Jackson Ck Rd	0.1
5-5E-4.0	Memaloose Rd	0.4
5-5E-5.0	Memaloose Rd	0.4
5-5E-6.0	West Hillockburn Rd	1.0
6-4E-10.0	10 - 12 Connector	1.6
6-4E-10.2	Rock Canyon	0.1
6-4E-10.4	Upper Cougars Tooth	0.2
6-4E-11.0	Lukens Cougar Ridge	0.9
6-4E-11.3	Left On Lukens Spur	0.1
6-4E-12.0	12 - 10 Connector	0.3
6-4E-12.1	Dead Horse Rd	2.4
6-4E-12.2	12 - 10 Connector	0.0
6-4E-16.0	Cougar Creek Spur Rd	1.9
6-4E-3.0	Dead Horse Spur 1	0.0
6-4E-3.1	Pasoos Mainline	0.3
6-4E-4.0	Dead Horse Sys	0.2
6-4E-4.1	Dead Horse W	0.1

6-4E-4.2	Dead Horse Spur 2	0.0
6-4E-4.3	Dead Horse Sys	0.5
6-4E-6.0	Lukens Creek Rd	6.6
6-4E-9.0	Cougar Ridge Fire Rd	0.2
6-4E-9.2	Cougar Ridge	0.1
6-4E-9.3	Cougar Ridge	0.1
6-5E-18.1	Side Creek Rd	0.6
6-5E-18.3	Lukens Side Creek Rd	0.3
6-5E-19.0	Wash Creek Butte Rd	0.8
6-5E-20.0	Miners Butte Quarry	0.3
6-5E-30.0	Divide Butte Spur Rd	0.2
6-5E-32.2	Wash Creek Spur	0.1
Total		40.3

Table 3: Acres of LUAs Proposed for Treatment

LUA	Acres*
CRNLCS	46 ⁷
DDR	132
HLB LITA	62
HLB MITA	1,303
TPCC	148
LSR	138
RR	390
ACEC	3
LWC	19

Total 2,241 acres

*Acres Calculated based on an average 160' buffer each side of roads

⁷ No treatments are planned within Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segments. This LUA is included to show WSR segments within BLM managed lands in the Fire perimeter.

Figure 1: Riverside Fire Perimeter Map Showing LUAs

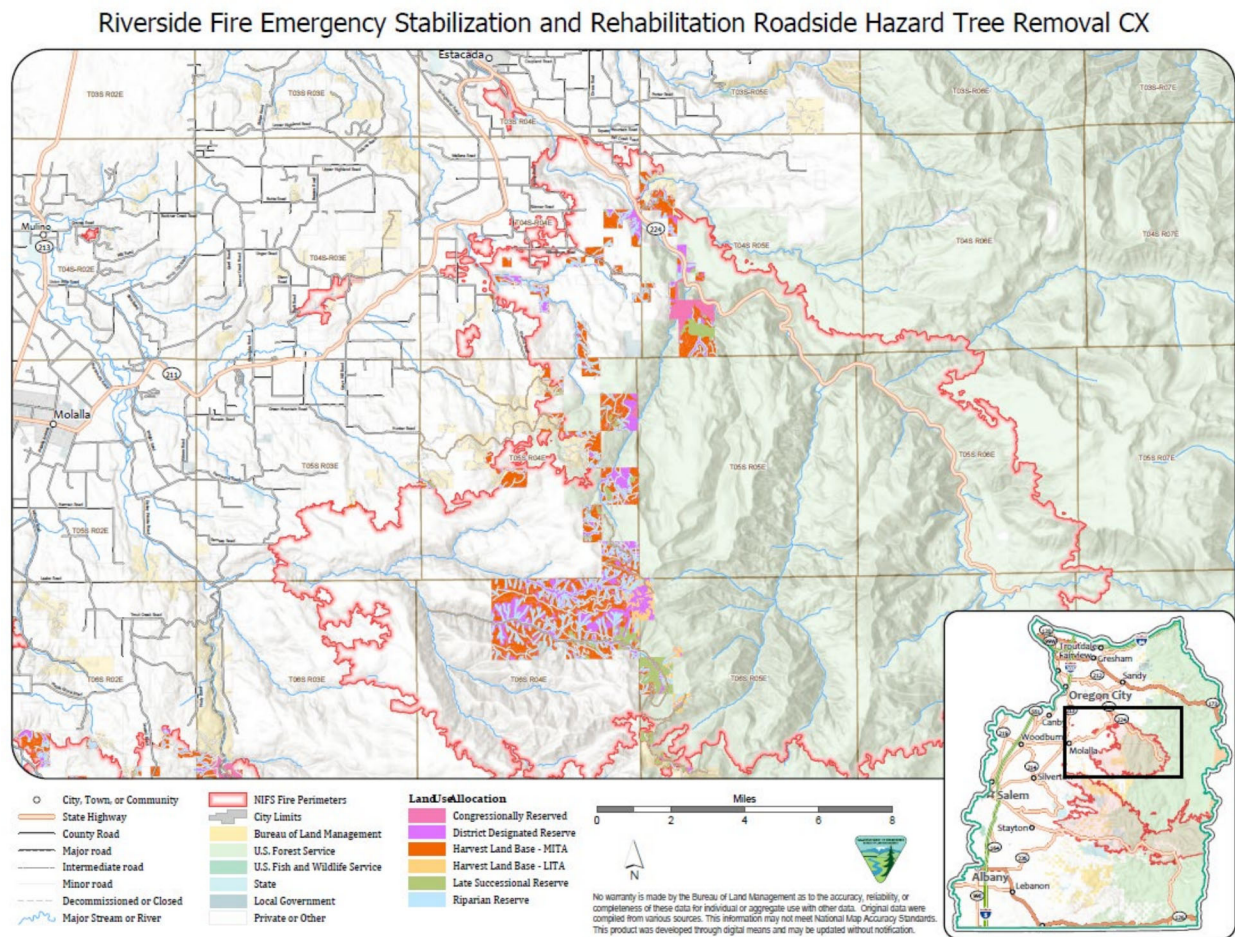
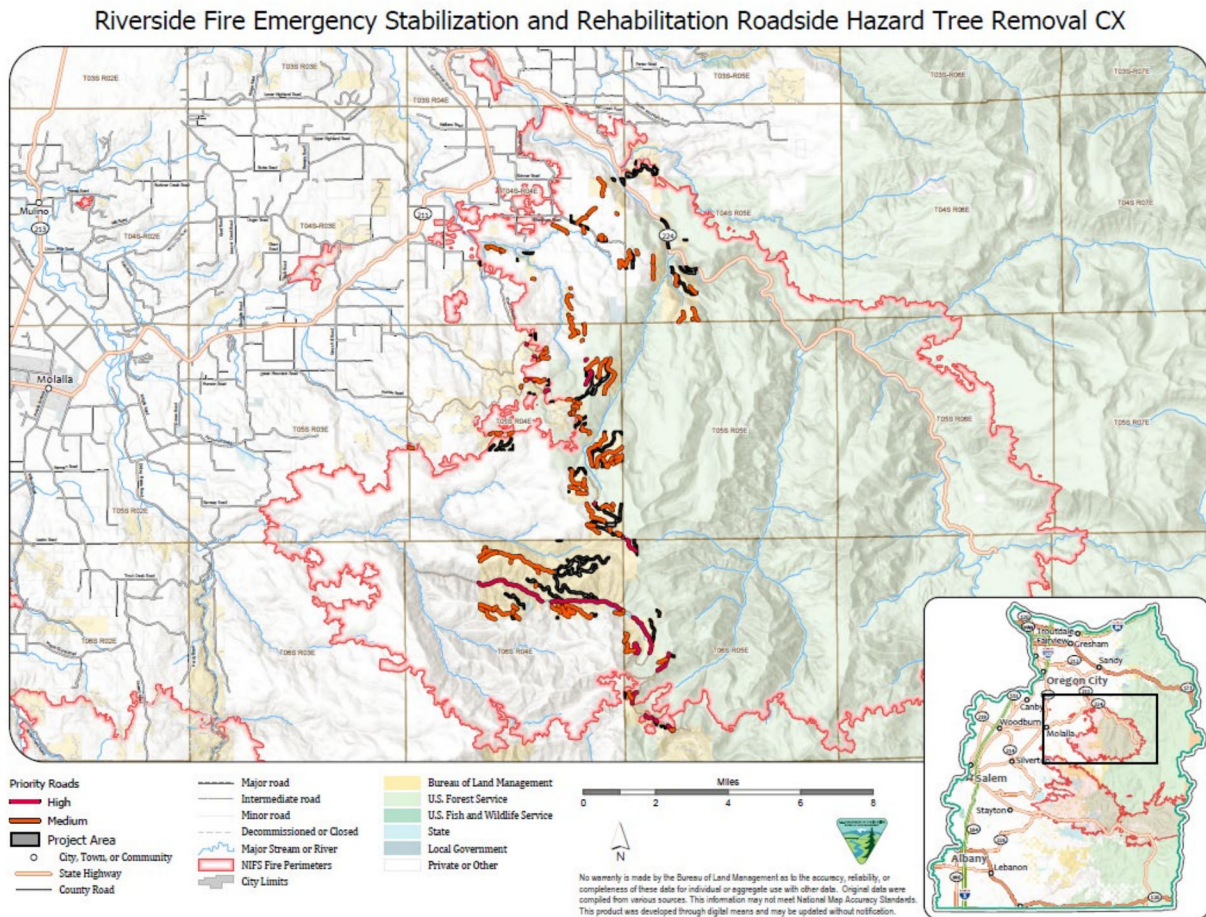


Figure 2: Riverside Fire Perimeter Map Showing Priority Roads



VI. Project Design Features and Best Management Practices

Project design features (PDFs) are specific measures included in the site-specific design of a proposed action to minimize or eliminate adverse impacts on the environment. Below are PDFs which would be followed in implementing the Proposed Action. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be incorporated as appropriate depending on the resource mix and other field conditions, are found in Appendix C of the 2016 *Northwestern & Coastal Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (2016 ROD/RMP) (pages 139-180). Some BMPs are listed below but depending on site conditions at the time of treatment, additional relevant BMPs may be implemented.

A. Forestry

1. All dead and dying trees within striking distance of the road would be evaluated for removal.
2. OSHA Plans must be at least as stringent as the Federal OSHA Regulations. BLM employees are considered under the Federal Regulations. BLM contractors and their employees, however, are under Oregon OSHA Regulations. Oregon OSHA regulations would also be observed during Project preparation, development and implementation.
3. Dead and dying trees that cannot be sold and removed would be left full length, retained for habitat and moved in a way that no longer poses a safety hazard or marked for instream restoration.
4. Felled dead/dying trees would be decked in preparation for removal except in portions of Late-Successional Reserve LUA with 60% or greater canopy cover consisting of green trees that do not meet dead/dying metrics.
5. 1850 Trees: If a dead or dying tree within striking distance of the road is equal to or greater than 40 inches DBH and is older than 1850, these trees would be felled and left unless such tree is a road hazard.

B. Safety

6. First aid kits and radios must be present at each worksite where chainsaws are operated. Chainsaw operators must also possess current first aid and CPR certification prior to beginning work.
7. All chainsaws, axes, and wedges used by BLM employees must meet or exceed applicable safety standards. BLM chainsaw operators are required to be accompanied by at least one BLM staff member who has also completed the required chainsaw certification consistent with IM OR-2021-002.
8. All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be in place for all BLM employees completing tree removal prior to Project implementation. Minimum PPE for chainsaw

operators as outlined in the Oregon/Washington Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy supplementing BLM Manual Handbook H-1112 are: hardhat, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves, chainsaw chaps, non-skid field boots, and appropriate field attire.

9. BLM staff would regularly communicate with contractors' staff during operations and monitor their work.

C. Equipment Use and Timing

10. Access to areas where tree cutting occurs will be closed to public entry and monitored with a flagger and/or posted with warning signs at the time of cutting.

11. Signs and barricades will be required where necessary to ensure public safety while felling, hauling, and fuel treatment activities are occurring.

12. Operate equipment only on established roads, camp sites, and designated parking areas when removing merchantable logs unless alternative routes are submitted in a logging plan by the purchaser and approved by the Authorized Officer. At least one-end suspension of logs is required during removal operations. Equipment and logs left onsite overnight shall not impair road access.

13. No refueling within 150 feet of any standing or running water. Where local site conditions do not allow a 150-foot setback, refueling must occur as far away as possible from water bodies.

14. All facilities will be flagged and identified.

15. Purchaser must ensure that all trail signs, camp sites, kiosks, and all other identified facility infrastructure would not be damaged during operations.

16. Purchaser will use rubber tired and approved equipment, when necessary, to avoid site and facilities damage.

17. Purchaser must remove debris, slash and pile cleanup in designated areas, except where slash is used as an erosion control measure.

18. Machine pile and cover slash along the roadside in large piles.

19. Slash shall be piled by a machine and in piles, the total size of which is no less than 15 by 15 feet.

20. Machine piles shall be located as far as possible from reserve trees or culverts to minimize damage.

D. Riparian Reserve/Hydrology/Fisheries/Soils

21. Where practicable, maintain and refuel heavy equipment a minimum of 150 feet away from streams and other waterbodies (BMP Spill Prevention 03, 2016 ROD/RMP page 176).
22. Hand piling fuels intended for burning will not occur within 100 feet of any stream channel.
23. Minimize cross-channel and side-hill yarding. Yard logs, where possible, directly up/down the slope.
24. When logging downhill into Riparian Reserve LUA, design the logging system to prevent converging yarding trails from intersecting stream networks (BMP Timber Harvest (TH) 04, 2016 ROD/RMP page 158).
25. Avoid decking logs in proximity to stream channels and across drainage culverts where they could block or divert ditch line drainage into adjacent stream channels.
26. Apply mulch to landing sites if site is hydrologically connected to a road ditch.
27. Implement erosion control measures such as waterbars, slash placement and seeding in cable yarding corridors where potential for erosion and delivery to waterbodies, floodplains and wetlands exists (BMP TH 06, 2016 ROD/RMP page 159).
28. Exclude ground-based equipment on hydric soils as defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (TH 07).
29. Ensure leading end of logs is suspended when skidding (TH 10).
30. Restrict non-road, in unit, ground-based equipment used for harvesting operations to periods of low soil moisture; generally, from May 15 to October 15. Low soil moisture varies by texture and is based on site-specific considerations. Low soil moisture limits will be determined by qualified specialists to determine an estimated soil moisture and texture (TH 11).
31. Incorporate existing skid trails and landings as a priority over creating new trails and landings where feasible, into a designated trail network for ground-based harvesting equipment. Consider proper spacing, skid trail direction and location relative to terrain and stream channel features (TH 12).
32. Limit non-specialized skidders or tracked equipment to slopes less than 35 percent except when using previously constructed trails or accessing isolated ground-based harvest areas requiring short trails over steeper pitches. Also limit use of this equipment when surface displacement creates trenches, depressions, excessive organic horizons removal or

when disturbance would channel water and sediment as overland flow (TH 13, 2016 ROD/RMP page 160).

33. Limit use of specialized ground-based mechanized equipment (machines specially designed to operate on slopes greater than 35 percent) to slopes less than 50 percent except when using previously constructed trails or accessing isolated ground-based harvesting areas requiring short trails over steeper pitches. Also limit use of this equipment when surfaced displacement creates trenches, depressions, excess horizons removal or when disturbance would channel water sediment as overland flow (TH 14).

34. Designate skid trails in locations that channel water from the trail surface away from waterbodies, flood plains and wetlands or unstable areas adjacent to them (TH 15).

35. Apply erosion control measures to skid trails and other disturbed areas with potential for erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to waterbodies, floodplains or wetlands. Practices may include seeding, mulching, water barring, tilling and placing woody debris. Apply BMPs from the road decommissioning section as appropriate (TH 16).

36. Block skid trails to prevent public motorized vehicle and other unauthorized use at the end of seasonal use (TH 19).

37. To meet snag requirements, five 20" DBH trees would be left per acre and 20 10" DBH trees would be left consistent with the 2016 ROD/RMP, Table 3, page 67. Ten percent of down woody material in Riparian Reserve would be retained consistent with the 2016 ROD/RMP direction in Table 4, page 67, to prevent high fuel loadings. Down wood levels need not be attained on every acre.

E. Wildlife

Federally Listed Species: Northern spotted owl:

38. No activities may impair the functionality of a territory.

39. No activities shall cause disruption to spotted owls.

40. If a spotted owl or a *Strix* unknown species is detected within a Project area, occupancy status is unknown, and the Project would adversely affect spotted owls if the area were known to be occupied, then the local biologist and the action agency's Level 1 Team representative may contact the USFWS Level 1 Team representative and determine what measures, if any, are necessary to ensure that incidental take of spotted owls does not occur. The USFWS will provide written rationale for any determination under these circumstances.

41. For the “individual tree removal” project category, removing trees may occur without surveys when removal of spotted owl nesting structure would only occur outside the critical breeding period, where trees with nesting structure are not limited in the stand, and is not a known nest tree (as determined by the unit biologist, who should consider using Davis et al. 2016, page 17 for reference, unless the area has been surveyed to protocol (USFWS 2012b or other protocol validated by the Level 1 or 2 Team)) and found to be unoccupied. If removing trees with spotted owl nesting structure must occur due to emergency reasons and this PDF cannot be followed, then the unit biologist will contact the USFWS Level 1 Team representative after removal to determine if the tree removal fits within the parameters of consultation or must be covered separately under emergency consultation.

42. Trees cut for hazards would be felled within 1 year of inspection.

43. Wildlife seasonal restrictions would be applied around unsurveyed spotted owl nesting habitat, nesting habitat in occupied territories and around known nest patches as identified by the project wildlife biologist, peregrine falcon primary nesting zones, and near streams with recent harlequin duck observations. The NSO restrictions would apply to mechanical activities and burning.

44. In unsurveyed spotted owl nesting habitat, nesting habitat in occupied territories and around known nest patches as identified by the Project wildlife biologist, a minimum of 15 of the largest danger trees/acre would be fallen and retained.

45. Protect habitat that owls may use for foraging in the short term. Try to avoid removing dead/dying trees within about 500 feet of patches of live trees greater than 2 acres that are within known or potential spotted owl territories and are still functional. If trees are hazardous and need to be removed in these areas, work with BLM wildlife biologist to minimize impacts to northern spotted owl.

46. Fall and leave buffers will be required around riparian reserves, ponds, special habitat wetlands and several rare plant and snail sites. These areas are not included in the timber harvest areas.

Wildlife conservation measures:

For all activities:

47. Operations may be shut down or restricted at any time if Special Status animal populations are found (BLM-IM-OR-99-036).

48. Retain trees > 40-inch DBH and older than 1850.

49. Do not cut Oregon White Oak. Replant Oregon White Oak in areas designated to benefit wildlife.

50. Retain largest trees; emphasis will be given to trees over 40" DBH for retention as down wood.
51. Maintain existing hardwood species, especially golden chinquapin, big-leaf maple and black cottonwood.
52. Retain existing down woody material greater than 20" in diameter at large end and 20' in length, and material greater than 6" in diameter at the large end and 20' in length in decay classes III, IV and V.
53. Retain pre-fire snags greater than 20" DBH, snags greater than 6" DBH cut for safety will be retained for coarse woody material.
54. Retain on average 10% down wood cover within the proposed roadside hazard tree areas unless a hazard to the road with in all LUAs except HLB.
55. Work in coordination with ODFW to seasonally restrict motor vehicle use on certain roads within designated deer or elk management areas.
56. Monitor acres of critical habitat treated.

F. Rare Plants and Fungi (2016 ROD/RMP, page 86)

57. When re-vegetating degraded or disturbed areas, utilize locally adapted seeds and native plant materials appropriate to the location and site-specific conditions, and meeting management objectives for vegetation management and restoration activities. Use seeds and plant materials that are genetically appropriate and native to the plant community or region, to the extent practicable.
58. Protect known sensitive plant sites from impacts associated with hazard tree removal. These plants are as follows: Gorman's Aster, *Eucephalis gormanii*, Nuttall's larkspur, *Delphinium nuttallii*, and Bog Club Moss, *Lycopodiella inundata*.
59. Hazard trees will be directionally felled away from sensitive plants where feasible based on safety considerations and left on site. Trees felled outside the sensitive plant population polygon can be removed.
60. A project botanist may be needed to flag or identify population or habitat boundaries prior to tree removal.
61. Areas where tree felling and removal occur adjacent to sensitive species location will be documented for post-treatment monitoring.
62. Protect special habitats from impacts associated with hazard tree removal.

63. Fell trees away from special habitats such as meadows and wetlands when feasible, based on safety considerations.
64. Trees felled into wetlands and meadows should be left on site and not dragged across sensitive habitats. Special habitats should be ground-truthed prior to project activities.
65. Protect Bureau Sensitive plant sites and Special Habitats, including meadows at Soosap Meadows ACEC, from impacts associated with revegetation.
66. Do not plant conifers in Bureau Sensitive plant sites unless it is a species for which conifer regeneration would be ecologically beneficial. Areas to be replanted will be evaluated and surveyed, if necessary, to determine presence of rare plants or rare plant habitat.
67. Do not plant conifers in Special Habitats such as meadows and wetlands.

G. Invasive Weeds and Seeding

68. Such measures include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Consistent with Project objectives, retain native vegetation in and around Project locations and minimize soil disturbance;
 - b. Make sure soil disturbing tools and equipment are clean before entering Project locations;
 - c. When operating in weed-infested Project areas, clean soil disturbing tools and equipment before leaving sites;
 - d. Use native plant species to promote competitive exclusion of invasive plant species;
 - e. Treatment and Monitoring at special status species plant locations;
 - f. Special status plants shall be monitored;
 - g. Seeding or planting native vegetation for short-term cover development and long-term recovery. Mulch with straw, wood chips, or other suitable material. To avoid introducing non-native invasive plants, including noxious weeds, when mulching, use certified weed-free straw mulch or rice straw where available. Placing straw wattles on the contour at adequate spacing between each row to capture eroded material without overflowing. Embed to the surface of the soil in slight trench to prevent undermining. Placing and anchoring log erosion barriers similarly to straw wattles. Spreading available cut vegetation or slash on bare soils. Placing channel sediment retention or stabilization structures (BMP F 17, 2016 ROD/RMP page 166).

H. Cultural (designated with pink and black checkered flagging).

69. If any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) is discovered during project activities, all operations in the immediate area of such discovery shall be suspended until an evaluation of the discovery can be made by a professional archaeologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific value.
70. Prevent heavy equipment from entering cultural sites. If heavy equipment must enter arch sites, slash would be placed under the tires/tracks to prevent damage to the site. Equipment would enter the site only during mission-critical aspects of the operation. Rubber tires are preferred to equipment with tracks if it must leave the roadway.
71. To the extent possible, directionally fell trees away from cultural site boundaries.
72. Use appropriately sized equipment to prevent dragging logs through sites.
73. Cultural resource protection measures would be implemented for all documented National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed, eligible, or unevaluated sites as appropriate. Standard site protection measures include:
- a. Appropriate clauses must be included in all Project prospectuses and contracts outlining cultural resource procedures to follow in the event cultural resources are discovered during emergency stabilization and restoration operations;
 - b. Leave felled trees in place at cultural sites or buck and remove trees using hand crews depending on LUA and site requirements;
 - c. Avoid heavy equipment use within site boundaries. If heavy equipment must leave the roadway and enter a site, slash will be placed under the tires/tracks to prevent damage to sites. Equipment would only enter sites during mission-critical aspects of the operation;
 - d. Use appropriately sized equipment to prevent dragging logs through sites;
 - e. Hand seed native and non-native grass species within site boundaries to hold soil, prevent erosion and protect from illegal collection and looting;
 - f. Contour felling methods would be used to prevent site erosion and loss of archaeological material;
 - g. Place slash atop sites by hand to prevent erosion, loss of archaeological material and protect from illegal collection and looting;
 - h. Place straw bales, coir logs (straw wattles) and small check dams above sites at head of drainages to decrease potential for erosion and to protect from illegal collection and looting.
74. Operator(s) would be alerted to the possibility of uncovering unknown cultural resources during Project implementation. Should new cultural resources be revealed, all Project-related activities in the vicinity of the find must cease, a Northwest Oregon District Archaeologist and Field Office Manager would be notified to evaluate the discovery, and

the consultation process as outlined in Section 800.13 of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations 36 CFR 800 would be initiated.

I. Lands With Wilderness Characteristics

75. Minimize damage to residual green trees and vegetation when falling and yarding.

76. Retain a minimum of 6 of the largest down trees per acre (minimum of 13-44 inches DBH inches and minimum of 40 feet length). The trees should be left in a manner that provides visual variety versus uniformity when feasible; leave varying diameters of trees scattered throughout the Project area.

J. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)/Fuels

77. A Prescribed Fire Burn Plan would be completed and signed by appropriate personnel, including but not limited to the agency administrator, prior to any prescribed burning.

78. Prescribed burning, where necessary for safety and to reduce fire risk would occur under atmospheric conditions that allow for the mixing of air to lessen the impact on air quality. Prescribed burning would be managed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the regulations established by the Air Quality Division of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

79. Prescribed burning may include landing pile or machine pile burning, swamper burning, or hand pile construction and burning and may be used individually or in combination in areas where the BLM determines fuel loading is heavy or the fire risk is high. Alternatively, carbonator equipment may be implemented to dispose of roadside piles to generate biochar from slash.

80. The BLM would apply the following requirements when hand, machine, or landing piles are identified by the Authorized Officer as the specified fuels treatment:

- a. Piles would be located as far as possible from large snags and not be constructed on top of stumps or down woody material;
- b. Woody debris greater than 12 inches in diameter would be retained on site not piled;
- c. When conducting fuels reduction or prescribed fire treatments down woody material would be retained to meet ≥ 6 percent ground cover post-treatment (2016 ROD/RMP, Table 4, page 67);
- d. Down wood levels would be met as an average at the scale of the treatment area following the treatment; down wood levels need not be attained on every acre;
- e. Piles would be covered with 4 mil (.004 inch thick) polyethylene plastic. The plastic would adequately cover piles to ensure ignition and would be placed

and anchored to help facilitate consumption of fuels during the high moisture fall/winter burning periods.

81. Machine piling equipment would travel on previously used skid trails during dry soil conditions. In areas inaccessible from designated skid trails where the slope is less than 35 percent, machine piling equipment would be limited to one pass over a slash mat.

VII. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following LUP:

The BLM signed a Record of Decision approving the *Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Resource Management Plan* (2016 ROD/RMP) on August 5, 2016. Post wildfire stabilization actions are in conformance with the 2016 ROD/RMP because it allows administrative actions in any land use allocation to the extent consistent with land use allocation management direction and applicable law (page 75). Administrative emergency stabilization actions would include hazardous tree removal and incidental live or dead tree removal for safety reasons (*id.*).

The Proposed Action is also in conformance with the current LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following management direction:

District-Designated Reserves (2016 ROD/RMP page 56)

- Maintain access to roads and facilities by removing hazard trees and blowdown. Such logs may be retained as down woody material, moved for placement in streams for fish habitat restoration, or removed through a commercial harvest or special forest products sale.

District-Designated Reserve – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (2016 ROD/RMP page 57)

- Maintain access to roads and facilities by removing hazard trees and blowdown. Such logs may be retained as down woody material, moved for placement in streams for fish habitat restoration, or removed through a commercial harvest or special forest products sale.

District-Designated Reserve – Timber Production Capability Classification (2016 ROD/RMP page 57)

- Maintain access to roads and facilities by removing hazard trees and blowdown. Such logs may be retained as down woody material, moved for placement in streams for fish habitat restoration, or removed through a commercial harvest or special forest products sale.

- If not suitable for commercial removal, allow cut hazard trees to be available for habitat restoration purposes in any land use allocation, including off-site from the location where such hazard trees are cut.

Late-Successional Reserve (2016 ROD/RMP page 65)

- Maintain access to roads and facilities by removing hazard trees and blowdown. Such logs may be retained as down woody material, moved for placement in streams for fish habitat restoration, or removed through a commercial harvest or special forest products sale.

Riparian Reserve (2016 ROD/RMP page 68)

- Maintain access to roads and facilities by removing hazard trees and blowdown from roads and facilities. Retain such logs as down woody material within adjacent stands or move for placement in streams for fish habitat restoration, unless removal of logs, including through commercial harvest, is necessary to maintain access to roads and facilities.

Administrative Actions (2016 ROD/RMP page 75)

- Incidental live or dead tree removal for safety or operational reasons.
- Recreation site (road) maintenance

Fire, Fuels, and Wildfire Response (2016 ROD/RMP pages 77 and 78)

- Manage fuels to reduce wildfire hazard, risk and negative impacts to communities and infrastructure, landscapes, ecosystems, and highly valued resources.
- Conduct wildfire rehabilitation and restoration actions to protect and sustain ecosystems, ecosystem services, public health and safety, and infrastructure adversely affected by fire management operations or direct fire effects.
- Conduct necessary vegetation maintenance treatments to ensure that fire management operations can access existing natural and human-made strategic infrastructure (e.g., communication sites, pump chances and other wildfire management actions/activities water sources, key road systems, containment lines, fuel breaks, and helispots).

Forest Management (2016 ROD/RMP page 79)

- Promote establishment and survival of desirable vegetation through stand maintenance treatments.
- Fall and move live or dead trees as needed for safety or operational reasons, including but not limited to: creation of landings, yarding corridors, or skid trails

within or adjacent to nearby harvest units, hazard tree removal, and road construction, improvement, or maintenance.

Hydrology (2016 ROD/RMP page 79)

- Select and implement appropriate site-level BMPs (Appendix C, pages 139-180) to maintain water quality for BLM actions (including, but not limited to, road construction, road maintenance, silvicultural treatments, recreation management, prescribed burning, and wildfire management actions/activities) and discretionary actions of others crossing BLM administered lands.

Lands, Realty, and Roads (2016 ROD/RMP page 83)

- Remove hazard and downed trees along roads for safety or operational reasons.

Rare Plants and Fungi (2016 ROD/RMP page 87)

- ESA-listed species consistent with recovery plans, conservation agreements, species management plans, and designated critical habitat, and species-specific or project-specific conservation measures developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the protection and restoration of habitat, altering the type, timing, and intensity of actions, and implementing other strategies designed to recover populations of species.
- Manage ESA candidate and Bureau Sensitive species consistent with any conservation agreements or strategies including the protection and restoration of habitat, alteration of the type, timing, and intensity of actions, and other strategies designed to conserve populations of species.
- Manage habitat to maintain populations of ESA-listed, proposed, and candidate plant species.
- Prior to implementing actions (other than fire management operations in response to unplanned ignitions or escaped prescribed fires) that could result in habitat modification or species disturbance in the suitable habitat of any ESA-listed, proposed, or candidate plant species, or Bureau Sensitive plant species, conduct surveys to determine species presence. Utilize information on known sites of ESA-listed plants when conducting fire management operations that could result in habitat modification or species disturbance. In addition to pre-project surveys, conduct additional surveys on BLM-administered lands for ESA-listed, proposed, and candidate plant species within suitable habitat as needed to find new populations.
- Manage naturally occurring special habitats to maintain their ecological function, such as seeps, springs, wetlands, natural ponds, vernal pools/ponds, natural

meadows, rock outcrops, caves, cliffs, talus slopes, mineral licks, oak savannah/woodlands, sand dunes, and marine habitats (2016 ROD/RMP page 95).

VIII. Compliance with NEPA

Categorical exclusions (CXs) are categories of actions that the BLM has determined do not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (individually or cumulatively) and for which, therefore, neither an EA nor an EIS is required (40 CFR § 1508.4). The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, Departmental 1.13 which states:

1.13 Post fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities: Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans; Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and Shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire.

IX. Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Extraordinary circumstances at the Project site would preclude use of a BLM CX. Extraordinary circumstances are those circumstances for which the Department of the Interior has determined that further environmental analysis is required for an action, and therefore an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. This CX has been sufficiently reviewed to determine whether any of the extraordinary circumstances apply. This review follows below.

Categorical Exclusion: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215) (516 DM 2, Appendix 2)

2.1 *The Proposed Action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Rationale: While some hazard tree removal activities would possibly present detrimental effects to public health and safety due to their nature (e.g., tree falling, heavy equipment or helicopter use), PDFs such as warning signs, safety barriers and area closures would minimize such effects and provide the public notice of where operations would take place. Overall effects would be beneficial because Project activities would ultimately help return burned areas to environmental conditions similar to those analyzed in the *Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement for Western Oregon*, March 2016 (PRMP/FEIS).

2.2 *The Proposed Action would not 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.

Rationale:

Cultural Resources: All activities would be reviewed by a BLM cultural resource specialist to determine the level of review and survey required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Project personnel would be alerted to the possibility of uncovering unknown cultural resources during Project implementation. Should new cultural resources be revealed during implementation, all Project-related activities in the vicinity of the find would cease; a BLM Archaeologist notified to evaluate the discovery; and the consultation process as outlined in Section 800.13 of 36 CFR 800 NHPA regulations would be initiated. *See also PDF ## 69 – 74.*

Recreation: Recreation sites would be treated and any impacts mitigated, consistent with the analysis in DOI-BLM-ORWA-N010-2021-0009-CX, the Riverside ESR CX based on the Cascades Field Office Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Plan and the 2016 ROD/RMP.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: The Riverside Fire affected approximately 194 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics, the three Clackamas Wilderness – South Fork Clackamas River segments, designated under the Wilderness Act. During wildfire management operations under this Project, BLM would use strategies and tactics that would protect wilderness characteristics, except where wildfire damage/hazards are deemed a threat to human safety or private property or where use is essential for wildfire control, as determined by an incident commander (2016 ROD/RMP page 58).

Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR): The Riverside Fire affected BLM-administered lands within the South Fork Clackamas and Clackamas WSR corridors. The South Fork Clackamas WSR is classified as wild, with scenic and historic ORVs. The BLM-administered segment of the Clackamas WSR is classified as recreational; the river's ORVs are botany/ecology, fish, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. In this Project, no hazard tree abatement is planned within either WSR corridor.

Wildlife: Project staff would set up regenerating stands to serve as functional forest ecosystem by leaving some snags and big down logs in place. *See PDF ## 44, 45, 46, 48, 50, 52, 53 and 54.* The IDT would also adhere to special management guidance in special areas and other Northwest Oregon District resource management plans to the extent possible depending on level of burn damage (e.g., CSNM RMP, RAMP).

Aquifers: Although there is groundwater throughout the Project area, there are no sole or principal aquifers. Most groundwater is relatively shallow and quick to recharge. Project activities are expected to remain on roadways and within road buffers in easement corridors, generally up to 160 feet from roadside. Soils are not expected to be adversely affected and therefore water infiltration rates and aquifer recharge are not expected to be affected.

Prime Farmlands: Although prime farmlands, including forest lands, are found throughout the Project area, Project activities are expected to occur primarily on roadways and within their easement corridors. Soil form and function is not expected to be adversely affected because hazard trees are dispersed and yarding cut logs will not concentrate soil disturbance.

Wetlands: Activities would not occur on wetlands and applicable BMPs would be implemented to prevent erosion and runoff into wetlands (2016 ROD/RMP pages 139 – 180).

Floodplains: Although most activities would not occur on floodplains, applicable BMPs would be implemented to prevent impacts should work be proximal.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: The BLM would assess hazard trees within the approximately 343 acres of the Soosap Meadows Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Hazard tree removal would not cause significant effects to these ACECs because the values for which they were established would be maintained. Specifically: Values associated with non-forested habitat within the Soosap Meadows ACEC would not be affected, as hazard trees would not be removed there. Values associated with botanical species do not occur within the hazard tree removal area. Areas to be replanted would be evaluated and surveyed if necessary, to determine presence of rare plants or rare plant habitat.

2.3 *The Proposed Action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Rationale: The Proposed Action would not have highly controversial effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources because it would eliminate hazardous conditions along roads and start a trend of beneficial restoration to fire-damaged lands and resources.

2.4 *The Proposed Action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

Rationale: Effects from the Proposed Action would be easily predicted and understood from past post-wildfire stabilization management activities. Conditions along roads on public lands within the Fire perimeter are currently unacceptably hazardous. Project treatments would remove dead and dying tree hazards, mitigating risk to public safety and resource values.

2.5 *The Proposed Action would not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Rationale: Authorizing emergency post wildfire stabilization activities along roads would not set a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Similar projects have occurred throughout the CFO Resource Area over the course of many years in response to fire damage and there has been no evidence develop that this type of project would establish a precedent or decision for future action.

2.6 *The Proposed Action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Rationale: The entire Riverside Fire perimeter is 138,182 acres. Within that perimeter, 12,597 acres are BLM-managed. This Project would be an estimated maximum of 2,241 treatment acres or 0.0162% of the total Fire perimeter. At this scale and applying PDFs and BMPs as provided herein, there are no detrimental overall effects associated with the post-wildfire stabilization activities proposed for this Project. Therefore, there are no significant detrimental overall effects arising from these actions. Activities on private lands are proprietary and BLM can only speculate as to if, where, and when burned wood on these lands would be removed. While there would be other BLM emergency stabilization and rehabilitation activities ongoing within the Fire perimeter (reviewed under separate NEPA), overall environmental effects of these projects combined would prevent injury to members of the public and property damage by removing hazard trees from along roads and replanting where appropriate. The Proposed Action, designed with the specific utility of public safety, would begin to reset burned landscape and resources closer to conditions analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

2.7 *The Proposed Action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or Office.*

Rationale: Hazard tree removal would be coordinated with BLM archaeology staff, who would identify resources for protection in the Project area. Known or discovered sites would be avoided. If hazard trees are present within the perimeter near a boundary of an eligible or potentially eligible resource, trees would be directionally felled away from sensitive resources and left onsite or removed by hand. The Proposed Action would have no effect on historic properties. *See also* PDF ## 69 - 74.

2.8 *The Proposed Action would not 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.*

Rationale:

Approximately 343 acres of the 2,241 Project acres proposed for roadside hazard tree treatment are in 2012 northern spotted owl Critical Habitat (CH). Approximately 41% (141) of the 343 acres of the CH are post fire foraging. This habitat is expected to be removed. Effects determinations to CH in the action area are generally made at the stand scale (USDI, Bureau of Land Management; Fish and Wildlife Service; USDA Forest Service. 2020. Willamette Planning Province – FY2020 Biological Assessment for Timber Harvest and Routine Activities that are Likely to Adversely Affect Listed Species and Critical Habitat on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Mt. Hood National Forest, Willamette National Forest, and the Northwest Oregon BLM District (BA) page 230). Such actions are not likely to adversely affect spotted owl CH because forested stands would maintain their function to support spotted owls in a manner as before treatment and would not slow the development of future late successional conditions (BA page 231). The Project

would retain live trees and leave down wood and snags that would not hit the road. The treatment areas are small and narrow in scope of the overall stands. Adverse effects to CH of spotted owls would not occur above levels that were analyzed in the Biological Opinion (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service. 2020. BLM Timber Harvest and Routine Activities Biological Opinion; FWS Reference: 0 1 EOFWOO-2020-F-0 170 (BO)).

Harvest would occur within the provincial home range radius (1.2 miles), within core areas (0.5 mile) and in the nest patch (300 meter) of known active spotted owl sites. Eight NSO territories that overlap Project activities have some post-fire foraging habitat removed from Home Ranges. BLM determined that Project activities are not likely to impair any of these territories. Leaving at least 15 of the largest danger trees/acre as downed wood, retaining shorter standing snags that wouldn't hit the road, and leaving existing downed wood is expected to retain sufficient structure to maintain post-fire foraging habitat in the nest patch treatment areas. This downed wood retention requirement of leaving 15 roadside hazard trees/acre as downed wood would also apply to dispersal, unsuitable and "green" suitable habitat in the nest patches. In addition, the 15 danger trees/acre would apply to potential nesting habitat. Removing post-fire foraging habitat outside the nest patches would not likely impair territories because of the linear shape of the treatment along roadways, even in territories below suitable threshold levels in Core Areas.

The BLM consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on this Project and the Service issued the BO opining that the action may affect and is likely to adversely affect the spotted owl due to removal of post-fire foraging habitat. BLM Wildlife Biologists would conduct ongoing site-specific assessments and implement project design features as hazard trees are removed along roads. All activities would be subject to site-specific ESA Section 7 review and a BLM wildlife biologist would communicate to the implementation team in advance of implementation. *See* PDF ## 40 and 41. The Project has also incorporated guidance for danger tree abatement into this Project provided by the Level 1 Team to Line officers of the Willamette Planning Province dated 02/22/2021 including the Considerations for Evaluating Effects of Post-Wildlife Conditions from USFWS dated October 2020. Applying these mitigation measures and PDFs, the Project would not affect spotted owl habitat or known sites. *See also* PDF ## 38 – 56.

ESA listed fish in the Project area include Upper Willamette River Chinook and steelhead trout. Designated Critical Habitat in major streams within the Fire perimeter includes the South Fork Clackamas River systems and their tributaries. Felling and removing hazard trees along roads near streams and rivers would not result in significant effects to listed fish in the Project area because trees felled would be left on site where they do not pose a safety or fuels hazard or moved for restoration elsewhere. Burned trees removed through commercial sale would generally exceed the amount needed to provide instream habitat. As a result of burned Riparian stands, input of large wood into adjacent streams would increase over the short term as trees die and fall naturally, providing habitat for native salmonids.

2.9 The Proposed Action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Rationale: The Proposed Action would follow all known Federal, State, local and Tribal laws and requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

2.10 *The Proposed Action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

Rationale: Low-income and minority populations may reside along public roads within the Riverside Fire perimeter. However, the Proposed Action would not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income and minority populations because it would enhance public safety through hazard tree removal.

2.11 *The Proposed Action would not 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).*

Rationale: Informal consultation with Federally recognized Tribes would take place to identify and protect cultural resources or sacred sites along the proposed roads. If sites are identified, appropriate coordination with BLM archaeologists would ensure that tree removal would be implemented with appropriate mitigation measures such as buffers around sites or ceasing activities in the area. As with any emergency action, access to sites may be limited for a short time to ensure public safety. See PDF # 74.

2.12 *The Proposed Action would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative 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).*

Rationale: Emergency hazard tree removal, combined with implementing PDFs listed above would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weed and non-native invasive species. These plants would be controlled and monitored within the Riverside Fire perimeter consistent with existing NEPA analysis (DOI-BLM-ORWA-N000-2018-0002-EA). See also PDF # 68.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly detrimentally affect the environment. Cascades Field Office personnel have reviewed the Proposed Action, and none of the 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (*see above*) apply to the Proposed Action. There is no potential for detrimentally significant impacts for the following reasons:

- The Proposed Action complies with the 2016 ROD/RMP and conforms to the actions described in 516 DM 11.9 (I.1) (Emergency Stabilization);
- None of the 12 extraordinary circumstances apply to the Proposed Action;
- The proposed Project would follow identified PDFs and applicable BMPs if the

Project is implemented; and

- The Proposed Action would mitigate hazards along public roads as required by Oregon OSHA regulations.

X. Specialist Review and Concurrence

Review Required	Review Not Required	Resource	Name	Comments	Initial/Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	Fred Greathorex		Fmg 6/15/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEPA Compliance	René Wahl		7/8/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Management Representative	Mike Mathews		MWM 6/15/21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Realty Specialist	Amy Herburger		ALH 7/12/21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invasive/Non-Native	James Hughes		JBH 7/12/21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation/WSR/LWC	Traci Meredith/ Cara Hand		TMM 7/8/21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife	Darren Bolen		DKB 06/24/21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roads/CET	Jay Bernards		JTB 6/16/21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries	Cory Sipher		CRS 7/12/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology	Peter Kauss		PK 6/15/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forestry	Tanner Hartman		TOH 6/15/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Silviculture	Kenny Ruzicka		KR 7/8/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soils Scientist	Marissa Theve		MCT 07/01/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Botany/ACEC Values	John Klock		Jk 06/07/21
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GIS	Jennifer Kirkland		No signature required

XI. Signature

Authorized Official



Digitally signed by JOHN HUSTON
Date: 2021.07.29 14:27:15 -07'00'

John Huston
Cascades Field Manager

Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact René Wahl, Cascades Planning and Environmental Specialist, Cascades Field Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306, 503-375-7962 or rwahl@blm.gov.