

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

1791A
CE-02-33

Fire History and Fire Regimes of the Willamette Valley Fringe and Foothills

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Background:

Knowledge of fire regimes provides insight and background into the range of historic and current stand composition, structure, general fuel characteristics and landscape patterns. The changes in fire regimes through time help us assess hazardous fuels, forest health and sustainability issues. Fire history and fire regime information is important information needed to help implement National Fire Plan goals and objectives, set appropriate restoration goals, and aid in developing appropriate prescriptions at both the stand and landscape scale. Information will be used to help prioritize projects, and determine appropriate types and timing of treatments for restoration and hazardous fuels reduction.

Fire histories have been reconstructed for sites within the Coast and Cascade Ranges in Northwest Oregon. However, we are lacking such reconstruction for the Willamette Valley and Coast and Cascade Range foothills. Dry Douglas-fir and grand fir forests, Oregon white oak woodlands, prairies and savannas occur along the Valley fringe of the Eugene And Salem BLM Districts. Fire history from these areas would fill an important gap in northwestern Oregon, and provide the baseline information for both Districts to implement both national and local fire management plans, as well as help prioritize and set goals for restoration planning. Cooperators in this project include: Salem BLM, Eugene BLM, Missoula Fire Lab (Rocky Mountain Experiment Station), and University of Oregon.

In FY02 and FY03 field crews will sample sites to get an in depth view of the fire history and stand structural and compositional characteristics of these landscapes. This project is to be completed in FY04.

Proposed Action

To cut and remove wedges off the face (wedges across the full radius) of stumps (of 150 to 200+ year old trees) harvested during the past 10 to 15 years. Wedges will be removed from stumps that are located in young plantation stands only. Cuts will be made with a chain saw. Approximately 30 plantation stands will be assessed with approximately 10-25 stumps cut in each stand. Stumps selected for sampling will contain fire scar or age class information (exhibit healed fire scars). Samples will be selected from final harvest units located on Bureau of Land Management administered lands situated between the margin of the Willamette Valley and a point twelve miles into the foothills on either side of the Willamette Valley.

Decision

The proposed action described above is approved to be carried out during calendar 2002 through 2004.

Rationale

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as described in the Departmental Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1, Part A (1.6 Non-destructive data collection), and does not meet any of the exception criteria. The proposed action is in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994 (ROD)*, and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, June 1995 (Eugene District ROD/RMP)* as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management January 2001*.

Prepared by: Nancy Wogen Date: July 8, 2002
Plant Ecologist/Senior Staff Botanist

Reviewed by: Richard Hardt Date: 7/8/02
District NEPA Coordinator

Approved by: Julia Dougan Date: 7/8/02
Eugene District Manager

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
 Exception Criteria Review Checklist

Proposed Action: To cut and remove wedges off the face (wedges across the full radius) of stumps (of 150 to 200+ year old trees) harvested during the past 10 to 15 years.

Review the proposed action against each of the ten criteria listed below. If the project meets one or more of the criteria, it is an exception from categorical exclusion and MUST be analyzed in an EA or EIS. To qualify as a Categorical Exclusion the proposed action may not meet any of the criteria. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

Exception Criteria	Comments
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety	No
2. Have adverse effects on unique resources (i.e., parks, recreation, refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, wetlands, floodplains, etc.)	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects	No
4. Have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks	No
5. Establish a precedent that could result in significant impacts	No
6. Be directly related to other actions having cumulatively significant effects	No
7. Have adverse effects on cultural or historical resources	No
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed as threatened or endangered or have adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.	No **
9. Require compliance with E.O. 11988 (floodplain management), E.O. 11990 (protection of wetlands), or the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act	No
10. Threaten to violate Federal, State, Local or Tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment	No
11. Would not be in compliance with State wide BMP	No

Mitigation measures needed to qualify as CE: ** All proposed areas of treatment will be reviewed for specific mitigation. Standard mitigation measures will include (1) No work requiring chainsaws or other motorized equipment would be done within a quarter mile of 80+ year old forest between 3/1 and 7/15 in the Willamette Province and 3/1 to 8/5 in the Coast Range Province. (2) The Coast Range Province also observes daily timing restrictions until 9/15 (no work until 2 hours after sunrise and work stops at 2 hours before sunset).

Reviewed By: Richard Hardt

Date: 7/8/02

Above mitigation measures have been adopted and will be implemented.

District Manager: Julia Dougan

Date: 7/8/02