

**United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District**

Categorical Exclusion Review (CX)

DOI-BLM-OR-120-2009-0002-CX

Date: October 10, 2008

A. Background

Project: FY 2009 Sale of Special Forest Products within the Coos Bay District

Location: Various locations throughout the Coos Bay District.

Project Description:

Under the Special Forest Products Program, contracts, including permits and tags, would be offered and administered for harvesting a variety of special forest products. Contracts may include Form 5450-5 for the sale of vegetative material up to a value of \$2499.00 and Form 5450-1 for the sale of vegetative material over \$2500.00, Christmas tree tags, and free use permits. Products to be harvested include, but are not limited to; firewood, posts and poles, chips, cedar wood products, transplant stock (tree seedlings, shrubs, and herbaceous plants), cut sticks, moss, beargrass, boughs and Christmas trees, other floral greenery, cones, burls, bark, roots, pitch, and fungi. Except for wood products, the items listed in this Categorical Exclusion review will be harvested manually. Wood products will involve the use of mechanical equipment such as chainsaws, tracked log skidder, cable yarding equipment, helicopter, loader and log trucks. Heavy equipment would be cleaned in accordance with the District Noxious Weed Policy. All Research Natural Areas, developed recreation sites, and special status fauna and flora sites will be excluded from harvest.

All contracts will include special provisions designed to ensure resource sustainability and protection of other resource values such as special status plant, fungi or animal species. Seasonal restrictions will be followed in accordance with programmatic consultation when it is determined that harvest activity level disturbance may adversely effect threatened or endangered species. The special provisions will include provisions listed in the Special Forest Products Procedure Series, BLM Manual Supplement Handbook 5400-2, Release 5-242, 4/13/94. Other provisions may also be included to meet project-specific needs. The harvest permit area will be described by legal subdivision or project-specific map.

Coos Bay District reserves the right to limit, change, or exempt amounts of products or species to be sold within District boundaries.

Area Restrictions for Special Forest Products

- X Areas of Critical Environmental Concern - Since most of the ACECs were designated because of special status flora or fauna sites (or related habitats) and do contain within their boundaries over much of their area such special status flora and fauna sites, no harvest of special forest products shall be permitted within ACECs, unless the harvest of special forest products benefits the ACEC or clearly does not impact any special status flora or fauna site within the ACEC. This policy shall apply until an ACEC plan is developed for an individual ACEC. Then the plan shall provide the over-riding direction.
- X Research Natural Areas - contracts will not be issued for special forest products within the Cherry Creek RNA.
- X Environmental education areas - contracts will not be issued for special forest products within the Powers Environmental Education Area unless the harvest is determined to be an efficient method to meet resource objectives.
- X Special habitats (e.g. cliffs, talus slopes, meadows) - harvest may be restricted when monitoring or research shows that resource damage is occurring due to special forest products harvest.
- X Developed recreation sites - contracts will not be issued for special forest products.
- X Known cultural resource sites and/or known Native American religious sites - harvest may be restricted, the District cultural resource specialist will be consulted before issuing contracts which involve ground disturbance including mechanical yarding operations.
- X For the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds, a stipulation will be included in the permit which states: "void

- areas of noxious weeds.” State noxious weed list and ID book will be provided to permittees.
- X Wetlands - contracts will not be issued for special forest products except for harvesting of traditionally-used products by Federally-recognized Native American Tribes. Contracts for traditional use can be prohibited when monitoring shows that resource damage is occurring due to special forest product harvest.
 - X Fragile Soil Areas - harvest may be restricted when monitoring shows that resource damage is occurring due to special forest products harvest.
 - X Special status fauna or flora sites - contracts will not be issued for special forest products.
 - X Connectivity/Diversity Blocks - harvest may be restricted when monitoring shows that resource damage is occurring due to special forest products harvest.
 - X Late-Successional Reserves - harvest of special forest products is allowed within Late-Successional Reserves in accordance with the LSR Assessments.
 - X Riparian Reserves - harvest activities within riparian reserve land use allocations must follow applicable standards and guidelines
 - X Key Watersheds - harvest within Riparian Reserves must be consistent with restrictions described above.
 - X Progeny test sites & seed orchards - harvest of boughs, Christmas trees, & firewood is restricted unless specifically authorized.
 - X Known or suspected hazardous substance sites - Harvest may be restricted; the District Hazardous Materials Specialist will be consulted before issuing permits which involve ground disturbance, including mechanical yarding operations.

Plant Species or Groups Restrictions for Special Forest Products

- X Lily family except beargrass - limited harvest pending site review on case by case basis (for example: rights-of-way and future harvest units).
- X Orchid family - no harvest is permitted.
- X Iris, except common varieties - limited harvest pending site review on case by case basis (for example: rights-of-way and future harvest units). Yellow flag iris is considered a state noxious weed and is restricted from harvest.
- X Truffles/Mushrooms - contracts for harvest restricted to District lands east of Hwy. 101, incidental personal use, less than 5 pounds, is exempt from contracts.
- X Lichens/ Mosses - restricted on case by case basis except no restrictions within rights-of-way and future regeneration harvest units.
- X Ferns - special status ferns are restricted from harvest.
- X Conifer boughs - contracts will be limited by species and site specific harvest areas.
- X Conifer wildings - harvest from rights-of-way, future harvest units, plantations and existing right-of-way* clearing limits.
- X Port Orford cedar boughs - harvest restricted to future harvest units and rights-of-way consistent with POC Management Guidelines.
- X Hardwood brush boughs - limited to common varieties.
- X Hardwood wildings - harvest from rights-of-way, future harvest units, plantations and existing right-of-way* clearing limits.
- X Medicinal plants - limited to specific sites and quantities.
- X Special status plant species - no special forest product harvest permitted.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance Review: This project is tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI BLM 1994) and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended, (USDI BLM 1995) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan [NFP])* (USDA/USDI 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994a).

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Manage for the production and sale of special forest products (SFPs) when demand is present and where actions taken are consistent with primary objectives for the land use plan (page 55)

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM §11.9 C(5):

Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds and personal use firewood.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 Appendix 2 apply.

A summary of the extraordinary circumstances is listed below. The action must have a significant or a disproportional adverse effect on the listed categories to warrant further analysis and environmental review.

<u>Extraordinary Circumstances</u>	<u>Applies</u> (Yes/No)	<u>Comments¹ and Source²</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>
(1) Health & Safety Hazardous Materials	No No	Reviewed by Hazardous Materials Coordinator;	<u>PG</u>	<u>10/21/08</u>
(2) Unique Resources	No	Reviewed by Port-Orford Cedar Coordinator	<u>JAD</u>	<u>10/22/08</u>
(3) Controversial Effects	No			
(4) Risks	No			
(5) Precedent	No			
(6) Cumulative	No			
(7) Cultural & Historic	No	Reviewed by Archaeologist	<u>SPB</u>	<u>10/23/08</u>
(8) T & E Species	No	Reviewed by Wildlife Biologists, Fisheries, and Botanist	<u>KB</u> <u>WPH</u> <u>LB</u>	<u>10/23/08</u> <u>10/22/08</u> <u>10-23-08</u>
(9) Violate Laws	No			
(10) Environmental Justice	No	Reviewed by Environmental Justice Coordinator	<u>SPB</u>	<u>10/23/08</u>
(11) Native American Religious Concerns	No	Reviewed by District Native American Coordinator	<u>SPB</u>	<u>10/23/08</u>
(12) Noxious Weeds	No	Reviewed by Noxious Weed Coordinator	<u>GT</u>	<u>10/14/08</u>

¹ Indicate applicability if the exception.

² List data source on which exception determination is based.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official:

District Manager:

Mark E. Johnson

Date: 10/27/08

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Steven Fowler; District Planning & Environmental Coordinator; Coos Bay District Office; 1300 Airport Lane; North Bend, OR 97459.

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Decision Record for Categorical Exclusion

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the routine sale of special forest products as described in DOI-BLM-OR-120-2009-0002-CX

Decision Rationale:

The proposed action has been reviewed by Resource Area Staff and appropriate project Design Features as specified will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Signature of Authorizing Official:



District Manager

Date: 10/27/08

Administrative Remedies:

Notice of the forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.