

Decision Memo

Trail Bridge, Foley, and Delta Logs

USDA Forest Service
Willamette National Forest
McKenzie River Ranger District

T.15S, R.6E, Sec 1; T.16S, R.4E, Sec 24;
and T.16S, R.6E, Sec 16; W.M.
Lane and Linn Counties Oregon

Decision

I have decided to sell 19,000 board feet (approx. four truck loads) of saw logs through competitive bidding. The logs are located at Trail Bridge Reservoir, Foley Ridge, and Delta Campground on the McKenzie River Ranger District, and have either been cut as hazard trees or are from windthrown trees that fell within the road prism. All logs are decked and within the road prism. Machinery utilized to retrieve these logs will not leave existing roads. The logs consist of Douglas-fir from 22-40 inches in diameter.

Background

The logs from the Trail Bridge area result from Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) complying with a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) safety order to remove potential hazard trees. Logs from the Foley Ridge area are the result of snow damage from a 2004 snowstorm. The logs from the Delta Campground were cut as hazard trees near campsites.

Proposed Action

The project would remove and sell approximately forty logs just past the EWEB facility entrance near Trail Bridge Reservoir on Forest Road 2600655, three logs from the MP 3.0 on Foley Ridge Road 2643, and four logs across from campsite 35 in Delta Campground near Forest Road 19. Maps of the proposal are available at the McKenzie River Ranger District office.

Reasons for Categorical Exclusion

I find that this project is within a category of actions established by the Chief of the Forest Service that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment, and can be categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS. The project fits category 31.2 (12)(a), described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15. This category allows for "removal of individual trees for sawlogs, specialty products, or fuelwood."

I have determined there are no extraordinary circumstances, based on the following information from the interdisciplinary team of resource scientists that analyzed this proposal:

- a. There are no adverse effects to any federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, to any species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or to any Forest Service sensitive species.
- b. This project does not affect flood plains, wetlands or municipal watersheds.
- c. This project is not within Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas or national recreation areas.
- d. This project does not affect Inventoried Roadless Areas.
- e. This project does not affect any Research Natural Areas;
- f. This project does not affect American Indian religious or cultural sites;
- g. This project will not affect any known archeological sites or historic properties or areas.

Mitigation Measures

Protection of Improvements: Purchaser shall protect Specified Roads and all other existing improvements (such as, but not limited to, roads, trails, telephone lines, ditches, fences, and campsites). Purchaser shall keep roads and trails needed for other purposes and designated on Sale Area Map reasonably free of equipment and products, slash, and debris resulting from Purchaser's Operations.

Slash Disposal: All generated slash will be scattered, 50 feet beyond existing road prism. This includes debris from decks.

All equipment is restricted to existing and transportation system.

Public Scoping

This proposal is to be advertised for a 30-day public review and comment (40 CFR 215).

Findings of Consistency

I have determined that the proposed action is consistent with Standards and Guidelines from the 1990 Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended in the Record of Decisions (RODs) of 1994, 2001 and 2004. The project is consistent with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines and Management Area Standards and Guidelines for Management Area 13a - Special Use Permit Area and Management Area 14a – General Forest.

Implementation Date:

If no comments are received during the 30-day public comment period, the project may be implemented immediately. If substantive comments are received, the decision will be subject to a 45-day administrative appeal period. If no administrative appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on but not before 5 days from the close of

the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before 15 days following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities:

This Sample Decision Memo is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215 if substantive comments are received within 30 days of publication of the notice of availability and comment in the Register Guard, Eugene Oregon. Only persons submitting timely and substantive comments regarding this proposal may appeal the final decision (215.6). For appeal eligibility, each individual or representative of an organization must sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Timeliness of comments will be determined by postmark, time and date stamp at the McKenzie River RD Office or the agency’s electronic acknowledgement for electronically submitted comments. Comments should be submitted to District Ranger Mary Allison at the McKenzie River RD, 46375 McKenzie Highway, McKenzie Bridge, OR, 97413, or fax 541-822-7254, or by email at comments-pacificnorthwest-willamette-mckenzieriver@fs.fed.us.

Contact Person

For further information please contact Special Forest Products Forester Shadie Nimer, at (541) 822-3381; by mail at 57600 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413; or email at snimer@fs.fed.us.

MARY ALLISON
District Ranger

Date

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