

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

**DECISION RECORD**  
*Mica Bay Hazard Tree Removal*  
**DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2014-0003-CX**

**1. Background**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coeur d'Alene Field Office must remove hazardous and diseased trees in the Mica Bay Boater Park developed recreation area to provide for the safety of the public. Many trees within the developed recreation area are displaying symptoms of laminated root rot (*Phellinus weirii*). In addition to the trees showing signs of root rot, there are several tree species which have significant butt rot, large overhanging branches, and other dangerous defects. Many of these trees are overhanging campsites and areas frequented by recreational users. There are an estimated 70 trees which will be cut and removed from an area approximately 8.5 acres in size.

**2. Decision**

It is my decision to remove hazardous trees from the Mica Bay Boater Park. Prior to selectively cutting trees, a hazard tree assessment will be performed by agency personnel to determine the risk posed by each tree. To reduce the effect on nesting bird species an effort will be made to fell hazardous trees before April 15, 2014. The priority for removal is on existing cavity trees.

Most hazard trees will be sold for commercial uses and fuelwood. Some trees will be left onsite to serve as wildlife habitat and firewood for campers. Following the hazard tree removal trees and shrubs will be planted in the boater park. To reduce the propagation of laminated root disease, hardwoods and root disease resistant conifers will be planted along the slope most affected by laminated root disease. Cottonwoods that are removed will be replaced with cottonwood trees. Stumps will be ground down after trees are removed from the boater park lawn area.

**3. Authority**

This is a Fire Management decision in accordance with 43 CFR 5000.

**4. Rationale**

Due to the risk to life and property the hazardous trees must be removed from the Mica Bay boater park. If these trees are not removed continued operation of the boater park is not possible. As stated in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation, there is no potential for significant impacts.

**5. Protest and Appeal**

The decision to implement this forest management project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. As outlined in 43 CFR 5003 (a) and (b), protests of a forest management decision may be made within 15 days of the publication date of the decision notice and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. Publication of this decision record on the BLM internet ePlanning site will initiate this protest period. Protests must be filed at:

Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
ATTN: Mica Bay Hazard Tree Removal  
3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Regulations do not authorize acceptance of the BLM of protests in any form other than a signed, paper document that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM office within the 15-day period. Therefore, e-mail, verbal, or facsimile protests will not be accepted

/S/

3/24/14

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Pavlat  
Field Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachment: Categorical Exclusion Documentation

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

*Mica Bay Hazard Tree Removal*  
DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2014-0003-CX

### **1. Description of the Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coeur d'Alene Field Office is proposing to remove hazardous and diseased trees in the Mica Bay Boater Park developed recreation area to provide for the safety of the public. The park is approximately 6 miles southeast of the city of Coeur d'Alene, ID. Trees located within 1 ½ tree lengths of the developed recreation area and adjacent the site access road pose a significant risk to life and property.

Many trees within the developed recreation area are displaying symptoms of laminated root rot (*Phellinus weirii*). In addition to the trees showing signs of root rot, there are several tree species which have butt rot, large overhanging branches, and other dangerous defects. Many of these trees are overhanging campsites and areas frequented by recreational users.

Over the last three years, two large trees and one branch have fallen in separate incidents hitting a privately owned camp trailer and an agency-managed utility building. Each of these incidents caused property damage and resulted in tort claims. In 2010 and 2012, agency personnel removed dozens of hazard trees from this recreation area. In 2012, many trees were felled in an effort to mitigate the risk to recreational users, but one of the previously mentioned incidents occurred following this action. The BLM has since determined that the root disease issue is affecting many more trees than previously thought; and as indicated by the recurrent incidents, a larger scale removal project is necessary. Therefore, under this proposal, to reduce the risk to the public, agency personnel, and property; trees will be selectively cut and removed from within and around the boater park.

After cutting hazardous trees, most trees will be sold to contractors as commercial use fuelwood, some downed trees will remain on-site for wildlife purposes, and a small number of trees will be cut into firewood for campers. Stumps will be ground down after trees are removed from the lawn area of the boater park. Prior to selectively cutting trees a hazard tree assessment will be performed by agency personnel to determine the risk posed by each tree. *The Long-Range Planning for Developed Sites in the Pacific Northwest: The Context of Hazard Tree Management*

(USDA FS PNW Region, 1992) will serve as a guide for evaluating hazard trees and determining if removal is necessary. There are an estimated 100 trees which will be cut and removed from an area approximately 8.5 acres in size.

Following the removal of hazardous and diseased trees seedlings will be planted. To reduce the propagation of laminated root disease hardwoods and root disease resistant conifers will be planted along the slope most affected by the laminated root disease.

## **2. Location**

Kootenai County, Idaho

T 49 N R 4 W Section 16 Lot 2

## **3. Land Use Plan Conformance**

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), this proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the *Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan* (RMP), approved *June 2007*. It is consistent with the following decisions from the RMP: Actions RC-1.2.1, 1.2.2 & 1.2.6 which direct agency employs to provide and enhance public safety within the developed recreation areas and designates Mica Bay as a high maintenance intensity area.

## **4. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with **516 DM 11.9.C(2)** Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured, or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads. Application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances 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 C, exist.

/S/ \_\_\_\_\_

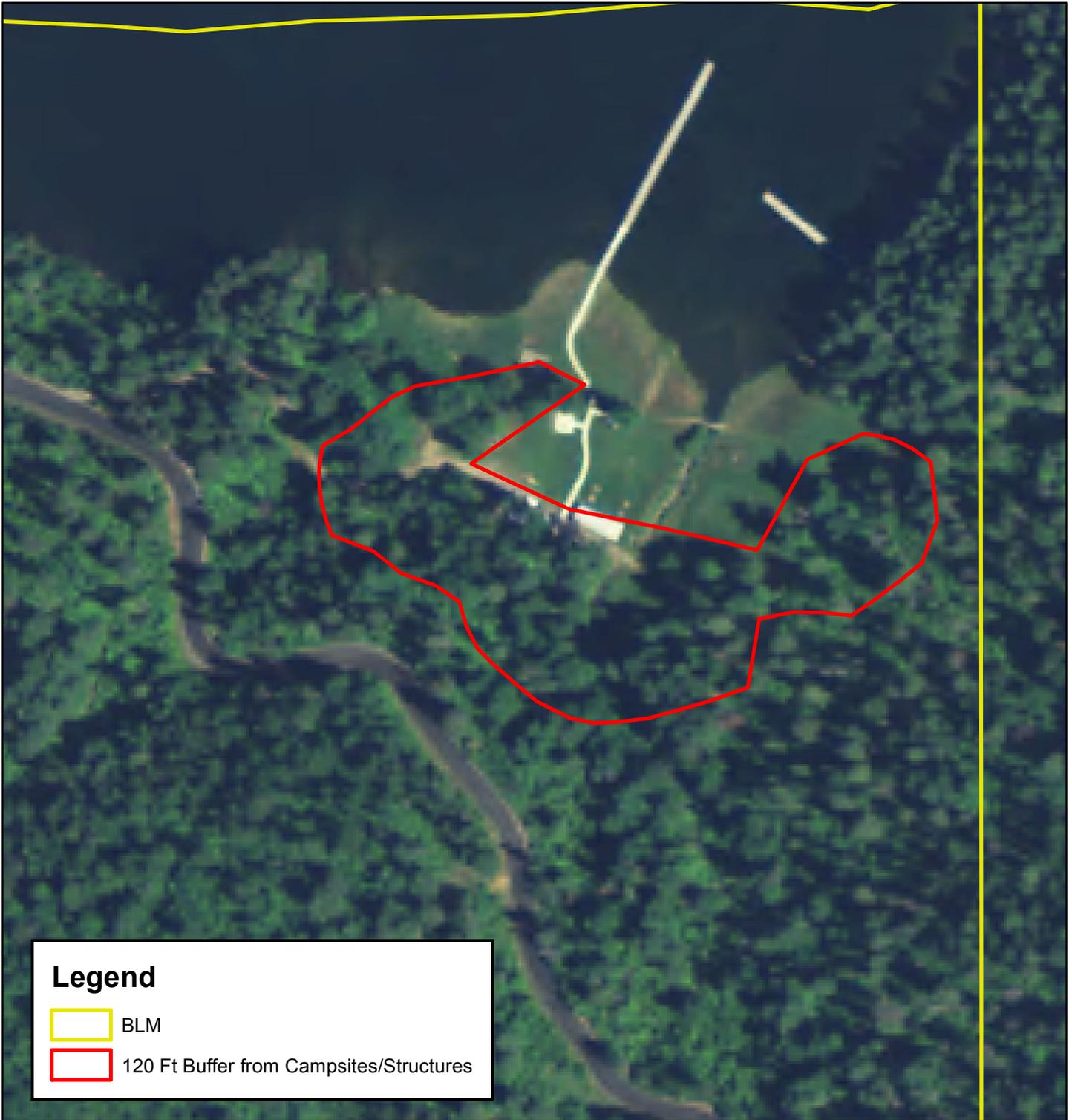
*Kurt Pavlat*

Field Manager

3/24/14 \_\_\_\_\_

Date

# Mica Bay Hazard Tree Removal Area



## Legend

-  BLM
-  120 Ft Buffer from Campsites/Structures



The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

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1:1,992



Data displayed in UTM Zone 11N, NAD83

Map Created: 11/15/2013

