

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

DECISION RECORD
Before Hope Salvage
DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2015-0009-CX

1. Background

In the fall of 2014 areas in Bonner County experienced significant wind events causing numerous trees to be blown over thus causing a significant amount of downed material. One such event occurred on a portion of BLM land roughly 4.5 miles northwest of Hope, ID (Map 1). Approximately forty (40) merchantable sawlog trees either snapped off or completely uprooted and fell over. An additional fifteen to thirty (15-30) trees which are either dead and/or dying would be removed during salvage activities to maintain a more resilient forest from fire and pests and to provide for the safety of the motorists along Highway 200 and along the right-of-way. Prompt removal and salvage of this downed material is highly recommended because of the potential for a beetle outbreak epidemic, concerns for public safety, and to reduce the risk of fire adjacent to homes.

Removal and salvage of this material will be accomplished this summer (July 15-October 2015), through a small salvage sale contract, likely sold to a local logging contractor. Material will be removed by ground based machinery utilizing a new skid trail (approx. 900 feet), existing skid trails and along existing roads (Map 2). Native plants and/or seed would be collected from the new skid trail, prior to its construction. The resulting slash material (limbs, tops, and damaged chunks), will be machine piled at designated landing locations and disposed of by burning when fire danger levels are low.

Approximately one (1) acre would be buffered in order to protect a wet area/pump house from disturbance (Map 2). Any red alder that is growing outside of the buffered area will also be protected from logging operations.

2. Decision

It is my decision to implement the proposed project as described above and in the attached Categorical Exclusion document; salvage removal of wind-thrown and roadside hazard trees within approximately 16 acres of land managed by the BLM, Coeur d'Alene Field Office in Bonner County, Idaho. This forest management salvage activity will be accomplished by removing hazard trees at risk to public safety along this well-travelled highway and access road. No new roads will be constructed.

In addition the following measures will be taken to discourage invasion and spread of noxious weed species such as Canada thistle or spotted knapweed: log landings will be monitored and, if necessary, treated with appropriate weed treatment methods or seeded

with site-appropriate species. In addition all motorized equipment used for logging work will be washed prior to being moved into the project area and the new skid trail will be seeded with certified weed-free grass/forb seed mixture at project completion.

3. Authority

This action is authorized in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and by 43 CFR 5003.

4. Rationale

This action is an opportunity to reduce the potential hazards to public safety and further reduce forest stand insect and disease related impacts adjacent to this major highway and access road, while meeting the goals and objectives addressed in the RMP. This action will reduce the potential for a beetle outbreak epidemic, concerns for public safety, and the risk of fire adjacent to homes. Also, as determined in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation, there are no significant impacts are anticipated.

5. Protest and Appeal

This forest management decision may be protested under 43 CFR 5003-Administrative Remedies. This decision record constitutes the decision document for the purpose of protest. Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after the date of this decision record. As interpreted by the BLM, regulations do not authorize the acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, written hard copy that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office:

Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
ATTN: Before Hope Salvage
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error. Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision are not timely filed and shall not be considered.

Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision.

If no protest is received by close of business within 15 days after publication of the notice of decision, this decision will become final.

/s/

7/17/15

Kurt Pavlat
Field Manager

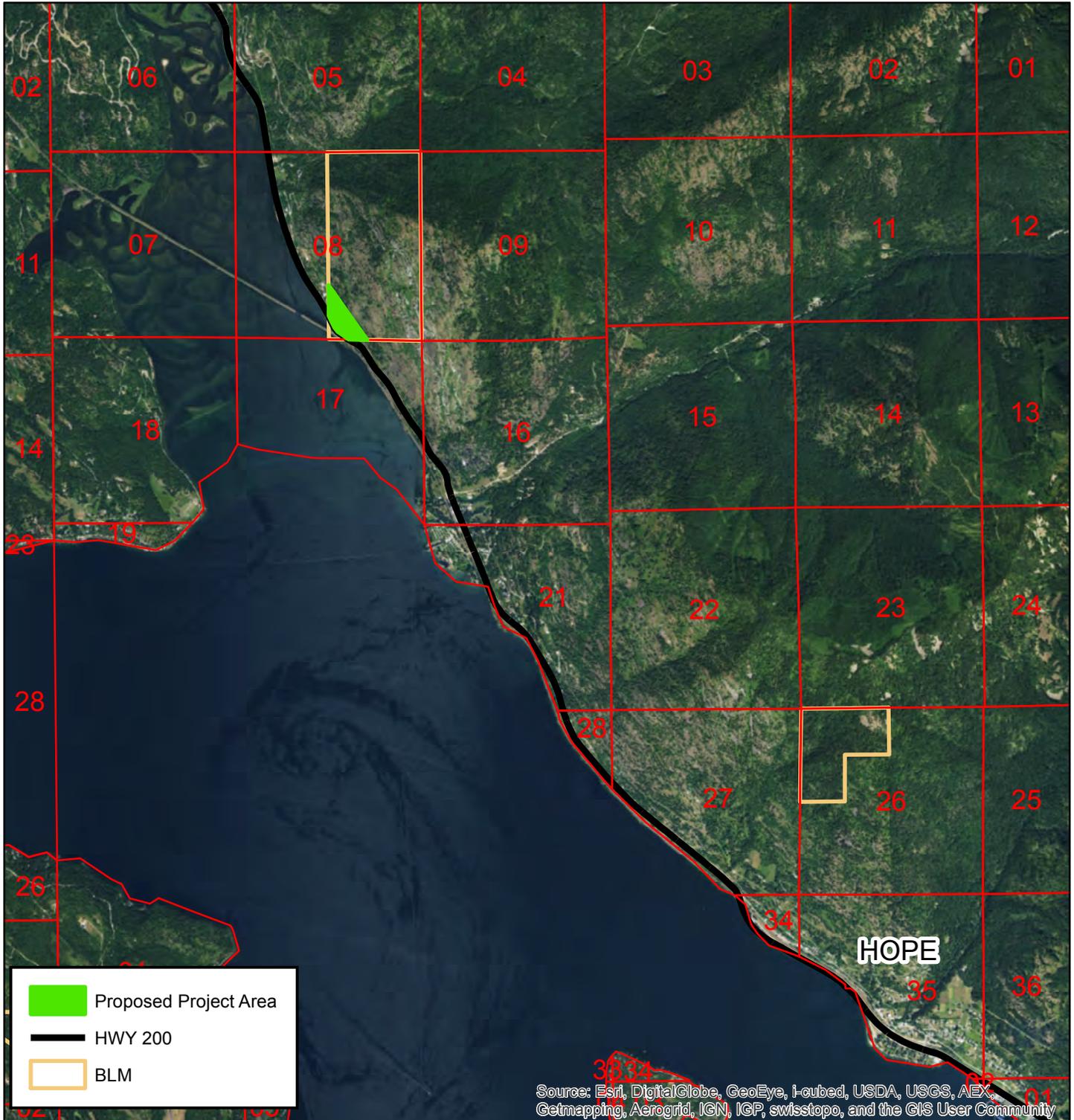
Date

Attachments:

- 1) Map 1: Vicinity Map
- 2) Map 2: Project Area
- 3) Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Vicinity Map

T. 57 N., R. 1 E., Section 8



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.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

Map Created: 4/23/2015

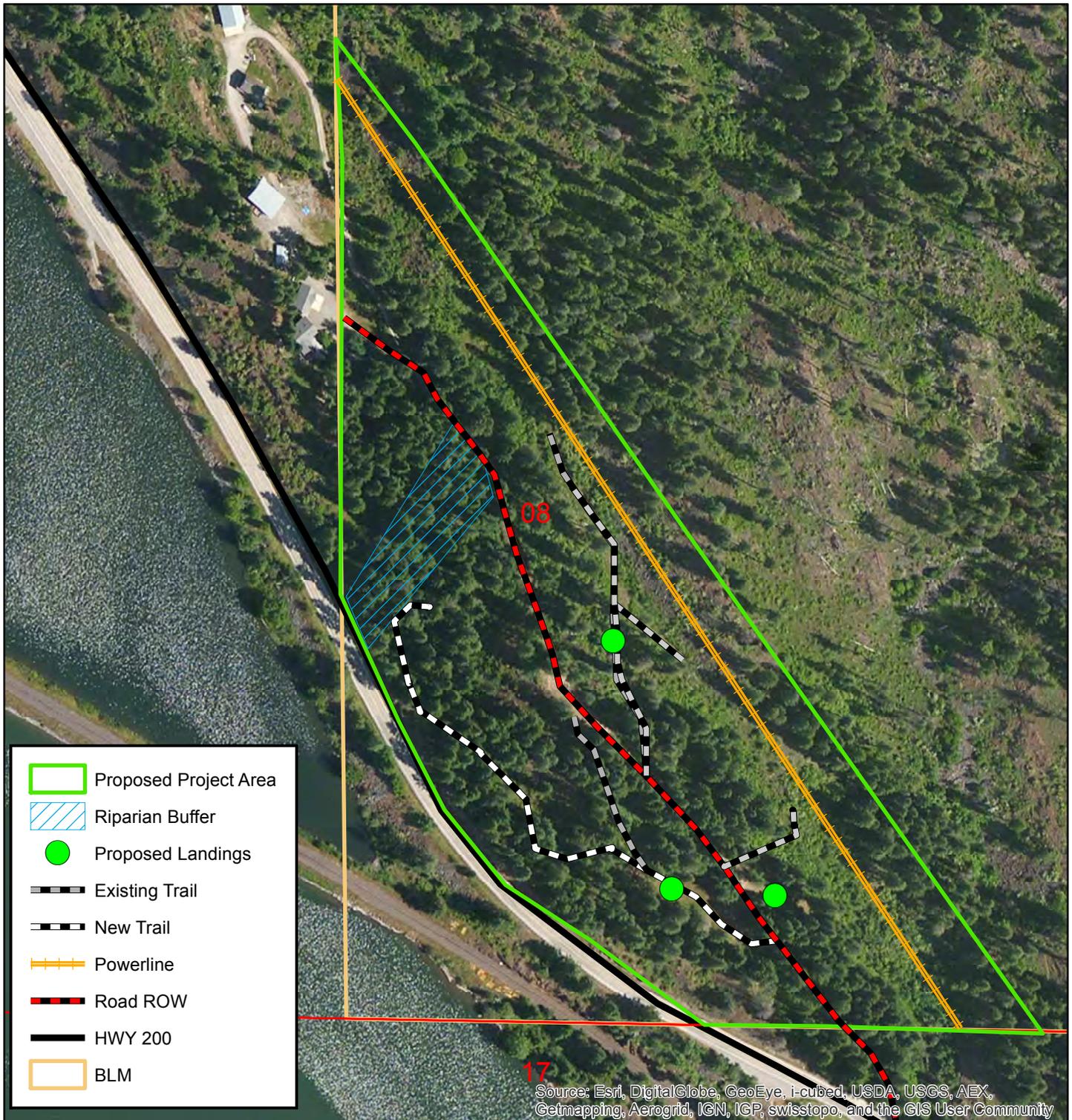


Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N



Project Area

T. 57 N., R. 1 E., Section 8



-  Proposed Project Area
-  Riparian Buffer
-  Proposed Landings
-  Existing Trail
-  New Trail
-  Powerline
-  Road ROW
-  HWY 200
-  BLM

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



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Map Created: 4/23/2015



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Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N

