

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

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Before Hope Salvage

DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2015-0009-CX

1. Description of the Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coeur d'Alene Field Office is proposing salvage removal of wind-thrown, dead and/or dying and hazard trees near Highway 200 and along the existing right-of-way on approximately 16 acres of BLM managed lands (Map 1).

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 2). Approximately forty (40) merchantable sawlog trees that either snapped off or completely uprooted and fell over would be removed. 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 3). 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.

To discourage invasion and spread of noxious weed species such as Canada thistle or spotted knapweed, log landings would 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 would be washed prior to being moved into the project area and the new skid trail would be seeded with certified weed-free grass/forb seed mixture at project completion.

Approximately one (1) acre would be buffered in order to protect a wet area/pump house from disturbance (Map 3). Any red alder that is growing outside of the buffered area will also be protected from logging operations.

2. Location

Bonner County, Idaho
Boise Meridian
T. 57 N., R. 1 E., Section 8

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:

Goal VF-1-Restore forest vegetation towards historic species composition, structure, and function across the landscape.

Objective VF-1.2.2-Emphasize the use of natural disturbances, prescribed fire, and appropriate silvicultural methods to restore historic composition within wet/warm vegetation cover type.

Goal FP-1.1-Provide forest products to help meet local and national demands while protecting the natural component of the environment.

Action FP-1.1.1-Identify and treat areas to promote forest health and restore forest stands to historic species composition, structure, and function.

Action FP-1.1.5-Forest products will be salvaged from areas where disturbances have occurred (e.g., fire, ice storms, wind storm, etc.) within constraints as defined in other resource management sections.

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 (8): Salvaging dead or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 mile of temporary road construction. 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.

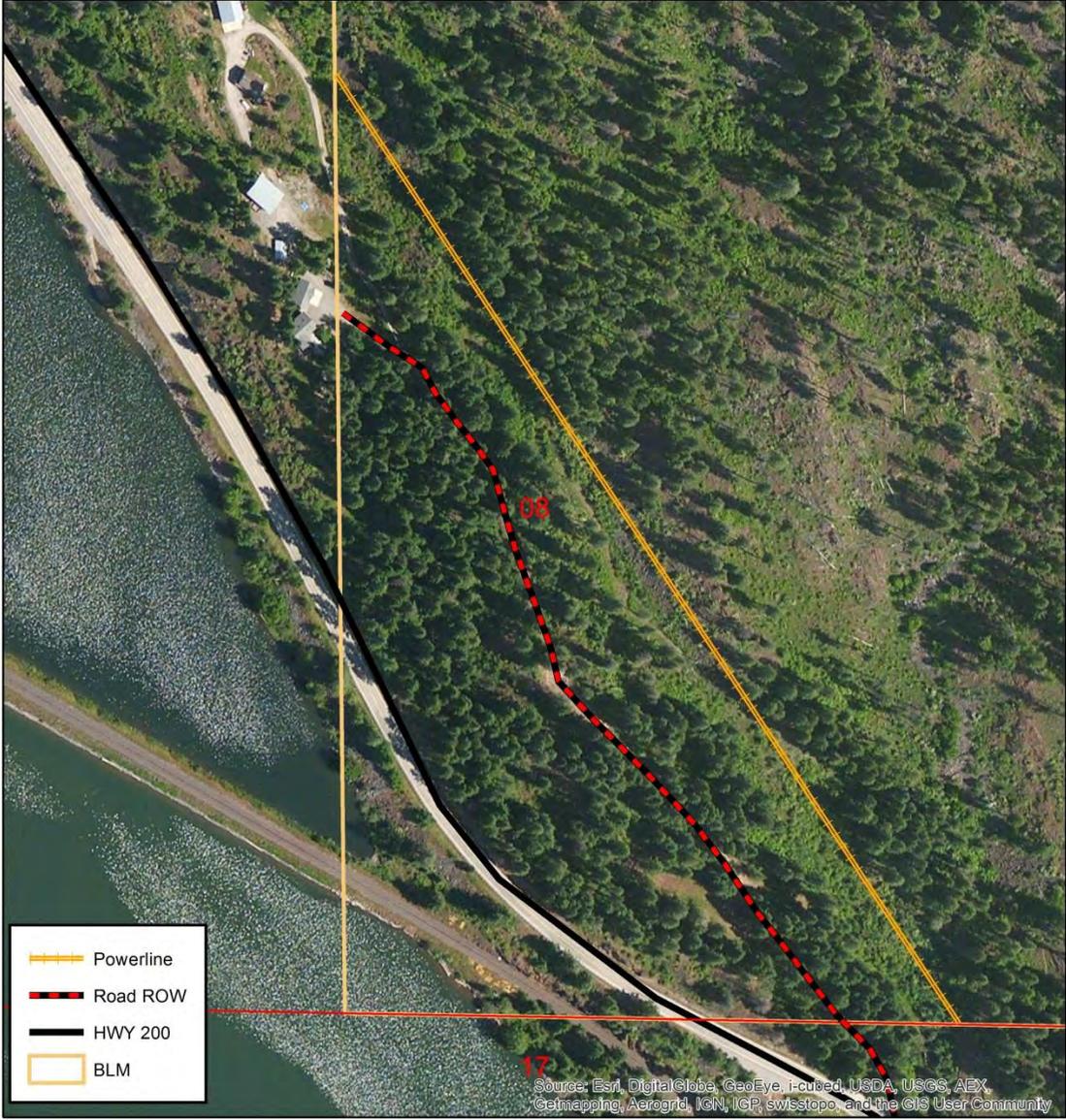
/s/

Kurt Pavlat
Field Manager
MAP 1

7/17/15

Date

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



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



Map Created: 4/23/2015

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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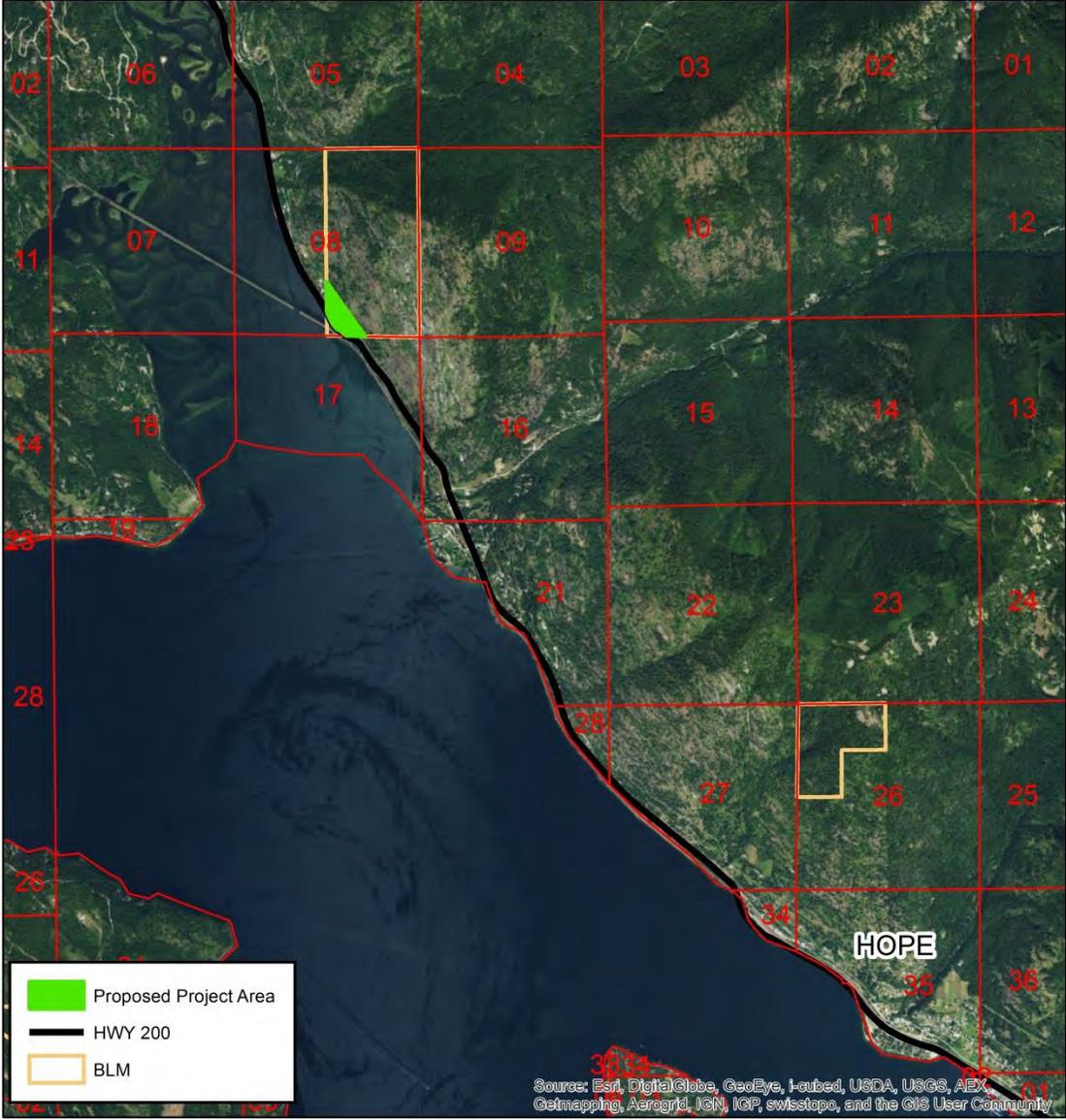


Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N




MAP 2

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





Map Created: 4/23/2015

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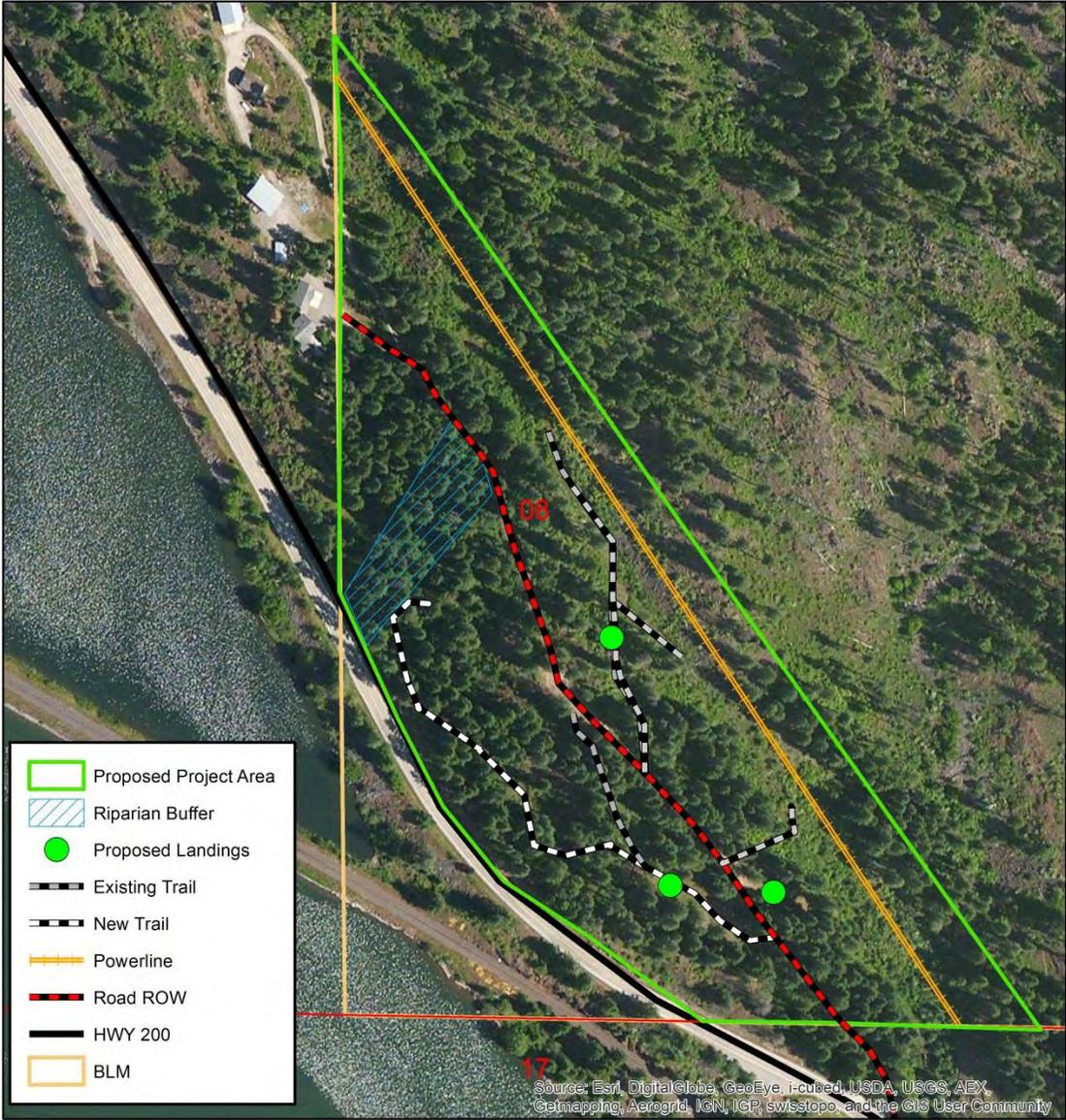


Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N




MAP 3

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



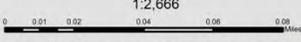


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