

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Southeastern States Field Office
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

ES-020-2015-07

Case/Project No.: NA

PROJECT NAME: 2015 January Lathrop Longleaf Pine Planting

TECHNICAL REVIEW:

(T)	Program	Reviewer	Signature	Date
	Air Quality			
	ACEC			
X	Botanical including T & E Spp.	FW	<i>Faye Winters</i>	1/6/15
	Communications (Dispatch)			
X	Cultural/Paleontology		<i>[Signature]</i>	1/2/15
	Energy Policy			
	Environmental Justice			
	Farmlands (Prime & Unique)			
	Fire Management			
	Floodplain			
	Hazardous Material			
	Invasive & Non-Native Species			
	Lands/Realty			
	Land Law Examiner			
	Law Enforcement			
	Minerals			
	Native American Religious Concerns			
	Operations			
	Range Management			
	Recreation			
	Soils			
	Surface Protection			
	Visual Resources			
	Water Rights			
	Water Quality (Surface & Ground)			
	Wetlands/Riparian Zones			
	Wild & Scenic Rivers			
	Wilderness			
	Wild Horses/Burros			
X	Wildlife including T & E Spp.	FW	<i>Faye Winters</i>	1/6/15

Prepared by: *Faye Winters*
 Faye Winters
 SSFO Wildlife Biologist

Date: 1/7/2015

Reviewed by: *[Signature]*
 NEPA Coordinator

Date: 1-8-2015

Reviewed by:



Duane Winters
Resource Supervisor

Date:

1-8-2015

Name of Project: 2015 January Lathrop Bayou Longleaf Pine Planting

Number: EA-020-2015_07

Case File No.: NA

Location (legal description): T. 5 S., R. 12 W., portions of Sections 15, 22, 23 and 27

Applicant: BLM

Description of Proposed Action: The proposal is to plant containerized longleaf pine seedlings, sourced from the Blackwater State Park in the Florida panhandle at a rate of approximately 50 per acre. More open pine stands would be prioritized for plantings with the goal of maintaining the basal area recommendations for red-cockaded woodpecker habitat at 40-70 sq.ft./acre. Plants would be planted randomly using a dibble and marked with a pin flag for reference and future monitoring. Planting is scheduled for mid-January when soil moisture is high.

Land Use Plan Conformance: The planting project conforms with the 1995 Florida RMP/EIS, and meets the goals and objectives of the 2003 Lathrop Bayou Final Habitat Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Categorical Exclusion Reference: (10) Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices (e.g., mats/straw/chips), and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands. Such activities:

(a) Shall not exceed 4,500 acres per prescribed fire project and 1,000 acres for other vegetation management projects;

This project would augment the existing longleaf pine stand with seedlings sourced from the region. The plantings are meant to augment the existing longleaf pine stand which has had very limited recruitment over the last ten years. This planting follows a wildfire 6 months ago which reduced dense wiregrass stands and provides an opportunity for planting.

Required Stipulations:

Seedlings must be sourced from the region.

Materials must be hand carried no vehicles.

Compliance and Monitoring Responsibility:

Survivorship will be monitored at least every five years.

Fish and Wildlife Service (Patty Kelly, pers. comm.) concurred on January 6, 2015 that the project would have "no adverse effect" on federally listed species.

Decision:

BLM has determined that the proposal conforms to the land use plan, is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria, and that it will not involve any significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review. The Proposed Action will have no effect on the President's Energy Policy and a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required. The proposed action will be implemented subject to the stipulations within the authorizing document.

Approved by: Bruce Dawson

Bruce Dawson
Jackson Field Manager

Date: 1/8/2014

Categorical Exclusion Review

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following categorical exclusion criteria to determine if exceptions apply to this project. The following exceptions apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (CX). Environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

CRITERIA	YES	NO
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	_____	<u>✓</u>
(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	<u>✓</u>
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].	_____	<u>✓</u>
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	<u>✓</u>
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	<u>✓</u>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	<u>✓</u>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.	_____	_____
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	_____	<u>✓</u>
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	_____
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).	_____	<u>✓</u>
(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly	_____	<u>✓</u>

adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007).

(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112).

_____ ✓
