

Decision Record
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
Wenatchee Field Office
915 Walla Walla Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

1. Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wenatchee Field Office is proposing treatments in response to the Monument, Sleepy Hollow, Douglas Complex, Okanogan Complex, and Northstar Complex wildfires that burned approximately 26,500 acres of BLM-administered lands in 2015. Proposed treatments that are currently funded and have met other regulatory requirements including Section 106 surveys and consultation require immediate action to meet emergency stabilization objectives. These treatments are addressed by this categorical exclusion (CX). Additional treatments are also proposed, but are either not yet funded, are pending completion of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 and/or Endangered Species Act survey and consultation, or both. Another CX would be completed for these additional actions when funding and/or consultation requirements have been met. The cumulative area proposed for all treatments would not exceed the 4,200-acre limit described in the post-fire rehabilitation category (see 43 CFR 46.210(l)).

2. Decision

I have decided to implement the *2015 Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Phase 1* projects as described in the attached document, DOI-BLM-ORWA-W020-2016-0004-CX, and shown on attached maps. Implementing the post-fire rehabilitation activities would help repair damage caused by several wildfires.

Changes caused by the wildfires have reduced habitat value for wildlife and have increased the burned areas' susceptibility to non-native species invasion. These wildfires have also caused unstable soils in some areas. Proposed treatments will help to quickly re-establish native vegetation to provide habitat value for wildlife species, reduce the spread of invasive species, and stabilize soils.

3. Authority for Decision

This wildfire management decision is issued under 43 CFR 4190.1 and is effective immediately. Vegetation, soil, or other resources on the public lands are at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to wildfire. Thus, notwithstanding



the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. Consistent with 43 CFR 4.21(a)(2), this decision will help to stabilize and rehabilitate lands affected by wildfire.

4. Agencies or Persons Consulted

The BLM consulted with the following agencies and persons during the preparation of this categorical exclusion and the Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) plans completed for each fire:

Livestock Grazing Lessees
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Chelan County Public Utility District #1
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
City of Wenatchee
The Nature Conservancy
Okanogan Conservation District
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Forest Service

5. Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. Appeal of this decision may be made to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with 43 CFR 4.410. The Interior Board of Land Appeals must decide an appeal of this decision within 60 days after all pleadings have been filed, and within 180 days after the appeal was filed as described in 43 CFR 4.416. Any appeal should state clearly and concisely as to why the final decision is in error. If an appeal is taken, notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at the following address within 30 days from receipt of the decision. All grounds of error not stated shall be considered waived and no such waived ground of error may be presented at the hearing unless ordered or permitted by the administrative law judge. Any appeal should be submitted in writing to:

Field Manager, Wenatchee Field Office
915 Walla Walla Ave
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Filing an appeal does not by itself stay the effectiveness of the final BLM decision. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471 and 4.479. Any request for a stay of the final decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21 must be filed with the appeal.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4.21 (b)(1), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether or not the public interest favors granting the stay.

Additionally, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(b), within 15 days after filing an appeal and petition for a stay with the authorized officer, the appellant must serve copies on: 1) All other person(s) named in the address heading of this decision; and 2) The appropriate Office of the Solicitor.

Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region
US Department of the Interior
805 SW Broadway, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97205

/s/ Linda Coates-Markle

11-24-15

Linda Coates-Markle
Field Manager

Date

Attached: Project Maps
Categorical Exclusion Documentation