

# Greater Camas Salvage Decision Record

**Bureau of Land Management  
South River Field Office, Roseburg District  
(DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2013-0004-CX)**

It is my decision to implement the Greater Camas Salvage Project which will salvage approximately 20 individual trees and approximately 10.8 acres of blown down trees at various locations in General Forest Management Area and Late Successional Reserve land use allocations. Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion (DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2013-0004-CX), I have determined that the proposed action will have no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

Harvest will take place outside of Riparian Reserve using a combination of tracked and cable equipment on historic skid trails and existing roads to the greatest extent practical. Access will require no more than maintenance of existing roads at the locations described below and displayed in Figure 1.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Amount or area of trees for salvage harvest</u>	<u>Land Use Allocation</u>
T29S R09W		
Section 27	5 trees blocking road	Late Successional Reserve
T28S R08W		
Section 31	Unit 1: 7.3 acres Unit 2: 3.5 acres	General Forest Management Area General Forest Management Area
Section 29	15 scattered trees	General Forest Management Area

All equipment will be pressure-washed or steam-cleaned prior to mobilization into the project area to minimize the risk of introducing soil from outside the project area that may be contaminated with noxious weed seed or other propagative materials. Any equipment removed during the life of the contract must be re-cleaned before being returned to the project area.

Implementation will occur outside of the critical marbled murrelet nesting period and daily operating restrictions will be in effect between August 6 and September 15; operations may only take place two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset to avoid potential disturbance to marbled murrelets.

## Rationale for the Decision

Evaluation of potential effects to special status botanical and wildlife species was conducted in the Middle Fork Coquille Commercial Thinning 2001 Environmental Assessment (EA # OR-105-01-01). Additional botany surveys (May 15-16, 2013) were conducted in proposed treatment areas and no special status plant species were found. The project is consistent with the survey and manage standards and guidelines. There were no Bureau Sensitive botanical and wildlife species issues identified.

The project area occurs within the Seasonal Restriction Corridor of **Marbled Murrelet** and one site (Section 27, T. 29 S., R. 9 W., W.M.) is in critical habitat. No disruption activities, including the use of chainsaws and heavy equipment, will take place between April 1 and August 5. Between August 6 and September 15 daily operating restrictions will be in effect; operations may only take place two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset.

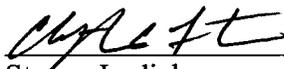
The project area is located within the home range of three known **northern spotted owl** sites and one site (Section 27, T. 29 S., R. 9 W., W.M.) is in critical habitat. Seasonal restrictions for disruptions activities, including chainsaw and heavy equipment use, will be in place. No project activities will take place between March 1 and July 15. No suitable habitat will be removed.

This project is in compliance with the 2011-2013 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (Tails# 13420-2011-F-0012) and Letter of Concurrence to extend programmatic activities (Tails #: 01EOFW00-2010-I-0196). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stating that this type of action is not likely to adversely affect the northern spotted owl, the marbled murrelet or their critical habitat.

## Protest Procedures

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision. Administrative remedies are available to persons who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. The 15 day protest period will be open for formal protest starting August 20, 2013. To protest a forest management decision, a person must submit a written and signed protest to the South River Field Manager, 777 NW Garden Valley Boulevard, Roseburg, OR 97471 by close of business (4:30 p.m.) on September 4, 2013. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and why it is believed to be in error, as well as cite applicable regulations. Faxed or emailed protests will not be considered.

For further information, contact Steven Lydick, Field Manager, South River Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd. Roseburg, OR 97471, (541) 440-4930.

  
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Steven Lydick  
Field Manager  
South River Field Office

8.19.13  
Date

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ROSEBURG DISTRICT  
**NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**Project Title:** Greater Camas Salvage Project

**BLM Office:** Roseburg District, South River Field Office    **CX#:** DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2013-0004-CX  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd  
Roseburg, Oregon, 97471  
Phone: 541-464-4930

**A. Background**

**Location of Proposed Action:** South River Resource Area; T. 29 S., R. 9 W.; Section 27 and T. 28 S., R. 8 W., Sections 29 and 31, Willamette Meridian (W.M.)

**Description of Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to salvage trees blown down during 2012 and 2013 winter storms throughout the greater Camas Valley (see Figure 1). Salvage harvest would take place on 10.8 acres adjacent to the 28-8-31.1 road, individual trees adjacent to Upper Camas Road and 28-8-29.2 road as well as individual trees located adjacent to the 29-9-27.3 road. In compliance with the 2011-2013 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (Tails# 13420-2011-F-0012) and Letter of Concurrence to extend programmatic activities (Tails #: 01EOFW00-2010-I-0196), salvaged trees would be removed only from the existing road prism in late successional reserves and northern spotted owl critical habitat. Salvage outside of late successional reserves would occur within 400 feet of an existing road. Standing trees with snapped out tops would remain on site as snags and no live standing trees would be cut unless they pose a danger to human safety. Snags or down wood that existed prior to the 2012-2013 wind events would not be removed. Units 1 and 2 have scattered blowdown trees, approximately 40 percent of the trees in the units would be salvaged and approximately 5 trees per acre remain standing and would not be harvested.

Harvest would take place using a combination of tracked and cable equipment on historic skid trails and existing roads. Access would require no more than maintenance of existing roads at the locations described below.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Amount or area of trees for salvage harvest</u>	<u>Land Use Allocation</u>
T. 29 S., R. 9 W. Section 27	5 trees blocking road	Late Successional Reserve
T. 28 S., R 8 W. Section 31	Unit 1: 7.3 acres Unit 2: 3.5 acres	General Forest Management Area General Forest Management Area
Section 29	15 scattered trees	General Forest Management Area

Evaluation of potential effects to survey and manage botanical and wildlife species was conducted in the Middle Fork Coquille Commercial Thinning 2001 Environmental Assessment (EA # OR-105-01-01). Additional botany surveys (May 15-16, 2013) were conducted in proposed treatment areas and no special status plant species were found. There were no Bureau Sensitive botanical and wildlife species issues identified.

The project area occurs within the Zone 2 Seasonal Restriction Corridor of **Marbled Murrelet** and operating restrictions would be enforced. No disruption activities, including the use of chainsaws and heavy equipment, would take place between April 1 and August 5. Between August 6 and September 15 daily operating restrictions would be in effect; operations may only take place two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset.

The project area is located within the home range of three known **northern spotted owl** sites. Seasonal restrictions for disruptions activities, including chainsaw and heavy equipment use, would be in place. No project activities would take place between March 1 and July 15. No suitable habitat would be removed.

Prior to mobilization into the contract area, road construction and logging equipment would be steam cleaned or pressure washed to remove soil and other materials that could transport weed seed, root fragments, or other propagative materials. If equipment is removed from the contract area during the life of the contract, it must be re-cleaned and re-inspected prior to re-entry into the project area.

## **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

The proposed action is subject to and in conformance with the *Roseburg District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD/RMP)*, approved June 2, 1995, because the Decision states objectives and direction for timber resources is to:

*“Plan and design forest management activities to produce a sustained yield of products to support local and regional economic activity. A diversity of forest products (timber and nontimber) will be offered to support large and small commercial operations and provide for personal use (p. 55)”.*

*“Provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects or disease... (1995 ROD/RMP, p. 60)”*

*“Harvest trees from lands withdrawn from timber production under certain circumstances, only when their harvest will be consistent with other plan guidelines. Examples of circumstances under which trees may be harvested from these lands are:*

- *To salvage trees or stands killed or substantially damaged by fire, windthrow, or other natural disturbance (p. 62)”.*

## Survey & Manage

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued an order in *Conservation Northwest, et al. v. Sherman, et al.*, No. 08-1067-JCC (W.D. Wash.), granting Plaintiffs’ motion for partial summary judgment and finding NEPA violations in the *Final Supplemental to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (USDA and USDI, June 2007). In response, parties entered into settlement negotiations in April 2010, and the Court filed approval of the resulting Settlement Agreement on July 6, 2011. Projects that are within the range of the northern spotted owl were subject to the survey and management standards and guidelines in the 2001 ROD, as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

On April 25, 2013, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated a portion of the 2011 Survey and Manage Settlement Agreement and reinstated the 2001 Survey and Manage species list.

The Greater Camas Salvage Project is consistent with the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan as amended by the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001 ROD). This project applies the 2001 list of Survey and Manage species. Salvage areas in Sections 31 and 29, T. 28 S., R. 8 W. W.M. were evaluated in the Middle Fork Coquille Commercial Thinning Environmental Assessment (EA# OR-105-01-01). This project is consistent with the survey and manage standards and guidelines because 1) habitat is not present for Oregon shoulderband snail, Crater Lake tightcoil snail, chase sideband snail and del norte salamander; 2) the quadratic mean diameter is below 18 inches diameter breast height (DBH) and there would be no removal or modification of suitable red tree vole habitat<sup>1</sup>; 2) the area lacks a natural 10-acre meadow near the sites and there would be no removal or modification of suitable great gray owl habitat<sup>2</sup>; and 4) no Survey and Manage plant species were found during surveys in May 2013.

### **C. Compliance with NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (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.*”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially 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 2 apply.

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<sup>1</sup> Huff, R., K. Van Norman, C. Hughes, R. Davis and K. Mellen-Mclean. 2012. Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole, Version 3.0. Portland, OR. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Regions 5 and 6. 52 p.

<sup>2</sup> USDA/Forest Service and USDI/ BLM. 2004. Quintana-Coyer, D.L. R.P. Gerhart, M.D. Broyles, J.A. Dillon, C.A. Friesen, S.A. Godwin, and S.D. Kamrath. Assistant Ed. K. L. Garvey. Survey protocol for the great gray owl within the range of the Northwest Forest Plan. Version 3.0. January 12. 46 pp.

**D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation:**

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> Salvage would occur in rural forested areas well away from communities and provides for safe travel by removing blown down trees on the roadway.		
2. 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> There are no unique geographic characteristics, historical or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, etc. that would be affected. No direct effects to nesting adult birds, nests and eggs, or fledgling birds would be expected.		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
<b>Rationale:</b> Past experience has shown that the environmental effects of salvage logging in forest stands are not highly controversial. The ROD/RMP authorized this silvicultural activity, and as such, there is no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources.		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> Small scale salvage of blown down trees is a long-standing practice that has not been demonstrated to have highly uncertain or potentially significant effects, or involve unique or unknown risks.		
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed salvage is addressed in and authorized by the ROD/RMP. As such, this project represents implementation the land use plan decision, not a decision in principle on future actions. Salvage, at the scale proposed, has been widely practiced on BLM and Forest Service lands throughout western Oregon and has not been shown to have potentially significant impacts.		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> The project is not related, in any way, to other projects with the potential for cumulative effects. The action will take place on an existing road and in previously thinned units; Diet Coq Commercial Thinning sale, analyzed in Middle Fork Coquille Commercial Thin EA 2001 (EA# OR-105-01-01).		
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted in the proposed project areas and resulted in negative findings (CRS Nos. 038998, SR0105, SR0204, SR0612, and SR1210). Two archaeological sites, 35DO435 and OR-10-257, are located near the project area and would be avoided. Therefore, the proposed project would have “No Effect” on known cultural resources. The BLM has met its Section 106 responsibilities under the 2012 National Programmatic Agreement and Appendix A of the 1998 Oregon Protocol. If any objects of cultural value (e.g. historic or prehistoric ruins, graves, fossils, or artifacts) are found during the implementation of the proposed action, operations would be suspended until the site has been evaluated to determine the appropriate mitigation action.		

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed salvage would not affect nesting opportunities for marbled murrelets or affect nesting, roosting, and foraging opportunities for northern spotted owls. Salvage activities would occur outside of the nesting season for both species so that potential disruption is avoided. Five trees within the road prism will be salvaged in northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat in T. 29 S., R. 9 W. Section 27.</p> <p>Proposed salvage would not affect stream bank stability or result in degradation and erosion of stream banks. Consequently, there is a negligible likelihood of any sedimentation occurring that could degrade water quality. Primary streamside shading would be maintained so that no changes in stream temperatures would occur. No effects to coho salmon, critical habitat for coho salmon, or Essential Fish Habitat for coho and chinook salmon are expected.</p> <p>Kincaid's lupine was not identified during surveys and salvaging identified blown down trees would not affect any known populations of special status plant species.</p>		
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed salvage project conforms to direction from the Roseburg District ROD/RMP for management of public lands on the Roseburg District. The ROD/RMP complies with all applicable laws, such as the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and others.</p>		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> No potential impacts have been identified by the Roseburg District BLM, either internally or through public involvement, indicating the proposed salvage project would have a disproportionate impact on low-income or minority populations in Douglas County, Oregon.</p>		
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> No Indian sites of sacred, religious or ceremonial value have been identified in the resource area.</p>		
12. 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 Executive Order 13112).		X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Equipment used for logging will be required to undergo cleaning and washing to remove noxious seeds that could infiltrate the salvage area during salvage operations. Foot traffic associated with forest work crews is not expected to create such conditions.</p>		

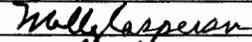
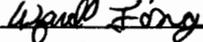
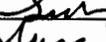
**E. Signature:**



Steven Lydick  
Field Manager  
South River Field Office

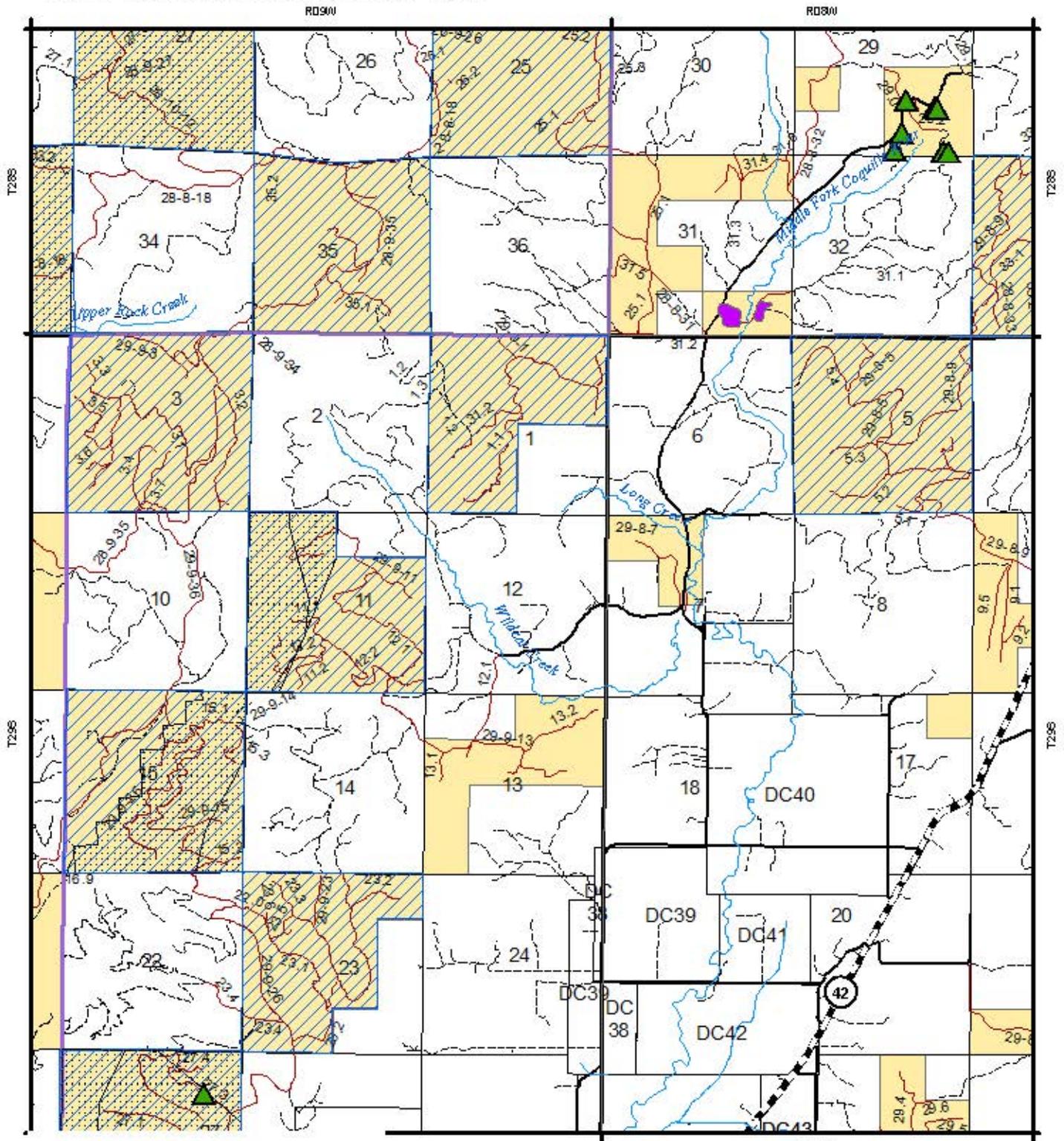
8/16/2013  
Date

**F. Reviewers and Contact Person**

Name	Specialty	Signature	Date
Molly Casperson	Archeology		8/13/13
Ward Fong	Soils		8/14/13
for Jonas Parker	Hydrology		8/14/13
for Gary Basham	Botanist		8/13/2013
Steve Clark	Fisheries Biologist		8/14/2013
for Lisa Renan	Wildlife Biologist		8/14/2013

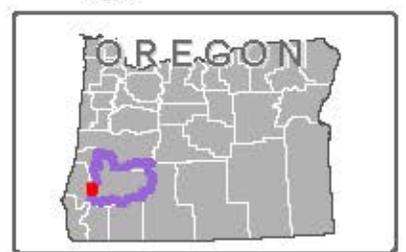
For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact:  
Brennan Garrelts (South River Forester)  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.  
Roseburg, OR 97471  
(541) 464-3363

Figure 1: Greater Camas Salvage - 2013



**Legend**

- Salvage Locations
- Salvage Units
- Bureau of Land Management
- Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat - 2011
- Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat - 2012
- Major Stream
- State Highway
- Bureau of Land Management Road
- County Road
- Private Road



Roseburg District  
Bureau of Land Management  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.  
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

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