PROJECT TITLE: 41 Road Hazard Tree Removal

PROJECT LEAD: Karlene Burman

PROJECT NEPA COORDINATOR: Lori Bailey

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Remove dead, dying and unsound hazard trees within the 41 road corridor from the forest boundary in the south to the junction of the 45 road in the north near Allison Guard Station. Trees cut would be up to 250 feet from the road. Selected trees are dead or dying due to insects and disease, and are potentially hazardous to the public and need to be removed to provide safe travel and recreational conditions. Some trees may be removed in small sales and some trees may be cut, but left on site for other resource needs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: Provide safe travel and recreational conditions while recovering the economic value of hazard trees.

MANAGEMENT CODE: BR549

EXPECTED TIMING: This fall, before snow and as needed on a yearly basis as long as conditions remain unchanged.

PROJECT LOCATION: 41 road corridor from the southern forest boundary to the northern forest boundary.


SUB-BASIN, WATERSHED, SUBWATERSHED, COUNTY, MANAGEMENT AREA:

Silver Sub-Basin
Upper Silver Creek, Claw Creek, and Emigrant Creek Watersheds
Cricket Creek, Upper Sagehen Creek, Upper Dick Miller Canyon, Egypt Creek, Little Emigrant Creek, Upper Wickiup Creek, Bear Canyon Creek, Dodson Creek, Delintment Creek-Silver Creek, Still Spring Creek-Silver Creek, Pin Spring Canyon and Upper Willow Creek Subwatershed.
Harney and Grant Counties.
Management Areas: Developed Recreation- 112 acres, General Forest- 6 acres, Old Growth- 46 acres, Silver Creek Recreation River Corridor- 2 acres, and Visual Management Retention- 2130 acres.
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The USDA Forest Service has a long history of using best management practices (BMPs) related to timber harvest, grazing, mining, and other land management activities to reduce adverse impacts to water quality. The 1988 General Water Quality Best Management Practices (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region) were intended to facilitate understanding of BMPs for protection of water quality. It included many of the key practices applicable in conducting land management activities. The practices are general in nature, and are intended to be made specific at the project level.

In a letter dated May 2, 2012, the Forest Service initiated implementation of the National BMP Program, to advance the Agency’s compliance with management of nonpoint source pollution at local, regional, and national scales and address the new planning rule requirement for National BMPs (36 CFR 219.8(a)(4)). The National BMP Program consists of four main components: (1) a set of National Core BMPs, (2) a set of standardized monitoring protocols to evaluate implementation and effectiveness of those BMPs, (3) a data management and reporting structure, and (4) corresponding national direction.

The National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands, Volume 1 (USDA Forest Service 2012) is a technical guide that contains the national core set of BMPs to be used in the National BMP Program. The national core set provides general, nonprescriptive BMPs for the broad range of activities that occur on NFS lands. Nearly every BMP in the national core set already exists in current regulations, guidance, or procedures. Therefore, adopting a standard national core set of BMPs may change what some national forests and grasslands refer to as their BMPs, but it would not change the substance of site-specific BMP prescriptions.

This CE hereby incorporates by reference the National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands (USDA Forest Service 2012) and the General Water Quality Best Management Practices (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, 1988). Additional BMPs may be added or existing BMPs can be modified as needed with interdisciplinary review and/or in cooperation with other state and federal agencies. Design criteria, described in the next section, are site-specific management activities for this project designed from BMPs.
PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA

Danger trees will be those that meet the definitions used in the “Field Guide for Danger Tree Identification and Response” (Toupin and Barger, 2005), and the Long-Range Planning for Developed Sites in the Pacific Northwest: The Context of Danger Tree Management (Harvey and Hessburg, 1992).

These trees will be cut and left on site:

- Danger trees in RHCA’s **below** the road.
- Danger trees in RHCA's **above** the road if aquatic habitat exists above the road for Columbia spotted frogs or snails (usually in the form of seeps, springs, ponds or the outflow from livestock troughs)
- Danger trees in Allocated or Designated Old Growth that will not inhibit road maintenance activities.
- Danger trees in Inventoried Roadless Areas and Research Natural Areas.
- Danger trees that would impact cultural resource sites.
- Danger trees in goshawk and osprey nesting buffers.
- Danger trees that are considered non-merchantable.

Danger trees above the road (in elevation), but within RHCA’s, will be marked as included timber for a timber sale, unless one of the other restrictions (see above) applies.

- Motor vehicles would be restricted to existing roads.
- Rubber-tired loaders or self-loading log trucks will be used.
- Road surface and shoulders will be protected during felling and skidding operations.
- If operations are during the winter:
  - Snowplowing will be for joint (public and logging) road usage.
  - Thermisters will be monitored where appropriate.
- Flaggers and signing will be used during felling, skidding, and loading operations, with a maximum permitted road closure of 20 minutes.
- Stumps in visual corridors should be as close to the ground as practical.
- **Slash treatment:**
  - Limited to hand-piling, and lopping and scattering.
  - Slash piles created by this project will be partially covered with plastic, and burned the following winter.
  - Slash will be pulled back twenty (20) feet from roads, fences, ditches, and other improvements; **regardless of the eventual slash treatment.** This will apply to boles, tops, limbs, and piles.
  - Some measures may need to be taken when burning piles that may cause smoke to impact campgrounds if civilians are present. These measures may include waiting to burn, or burning when winds and weather are conducive to carrying the smoke away from the campgrounds.
  - Trees cut and left in RHCA’s, will be left **unlopped and unpiled.**
• Slash treatment in Heritage/Cultural Resource sites would be limited to lopping and scattering.
  • Slash treatment in sensitive plant habitat and spring areas, would be limited to lopping and scattering.
• Danger trees with historical significance will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, by the District Archeologist, PRIOR to cutting.
• If trees are to be skidded across or adjacent to a known heritage site, the skid path must be inspected prior to skidding. This restriction does not apply if skidding occurs over snow
• There should be no log decks within cultural resource sites unless mitigated by the District Archaeologist.
• If during the project activities, cultural material is encountered, all activities will cease immediately and a Forest heritage specialist will be contacted to evaluate the discovery.
• Subject to all of the same design criteria as removal as forest products, unmerchantable logs may be placed in nearby stream bottoms, or hauled to other streams for placement.
• Trees would not be felled directly into streams between March 31 and October 1.
• Protect all improvements. Infrastructure damaged during tree cutting or removal, would be repaired immediately; to the pre-existing condition, with materials meeting minimum Forest Service standards.
• Attempts would be made to **not** fall trees on fences.
• Fences damaged during tree cutting or removal, would be repaired immediately; to the pre-existing condition, with materials meeting minimum Forest Service standards for range fencing.
• Gates would be kept closed May through October.
• Avoid traveling or working in new or existing weed sites.
• Live or recently dead ponderosa pine stumps with diameters of 14 inches or larger must be treated with a product containing borax to prevent the further spread of annosus root rot. Recently dead trees are those that have died within the last 2 years and can be identified by the presence of residual needles. The product containing borax must be applied to a depth sufficient to gain coverage of the entire stump face after removal of sawdust and other debris. The borax treatment must be applied within the first 24 hours following stump creation.
WEED PREVENTION PLAN

In order to prevent the potential spread of noxious weeds onto National Forest system lands, all off-road equipment and vehicles to be used at the job site shall be cleaned and certified free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to entrance onto the National Forest. The restriction shall include equipment and vehicles intended for off-road use, whether they are owned, leased, or borrowed by the contractor or subcontractor.

Cleaning shall consist of the removal of all dirt, grease, debris, and materials that may harbor noxious weeds and their seeds. This may require the use of a pressure hose. Cleaning shall occur off National Forest system lands.

Equipment, materials, and vehicles shall be visually inspected by a designated Forest Service Officer, and certified in writing to be reasonably clean and weed free. Inspections will take place at a location designated by the Forest Officer in advance of equipment and material arrival. Equipment and vehicles are expected to proceed directly to the job site following the inspection. Materials to be used on the project will be delivered to the project after inspection and approval.

Certification shall remain valid for each identified piece of equipment or vehicle only for the duration of the specified project and only as long as the vehicle or equipment remains at the job site. Equipment and vehicles (except passenger vehicles) that leave the job site shall be re-certified as weed free before they are allowed to return to the job site or re-enter the National Forest.
Management Areas
41 Road Hazard Tree Removal

Legend

- 41 Road
- 41 Road - 250 Foot Buffer Zone

Land Management Plan - Ochoco NF
Description
- Developed Recreation
- Eagle Roosting Areas
- Facilities
- General Forest
- General Forest Winter Range
- Old Growth
- Research Natural Area
- Silver Cr Rec River Corridor
- Silver Creek Roadless Area
- USGS Snow Course Monitoring
- Visual Manage Retention
- Visual Manage Part Retention
- Winter Range

This product is reproduced from information prepared by the USDA, Forest Service or from other suppliers. The Forest Service cannot assure the reliability or suitability of this information for a particular purpose. The data and product accuracy may vary due to compilation from various sources, including modeling and interpretation, and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated, corrected or otherwise modified without notification. For more information contact: Malheur National Forest Supervisors Office at 541-575-3000. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.