



File Code: 1950

Date: September 28, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) identifies you as an individual, agency, or organization with a possible interest in commenting on a proposal for the removal of hazard trees within an area burned by the Herman Creek Fire of 2003. The objective of the proposal is to remove dead trees that are a hazard to the I-84 Corridor and the proposed development to the south of the I-84 Corridor as shown in the photo below.

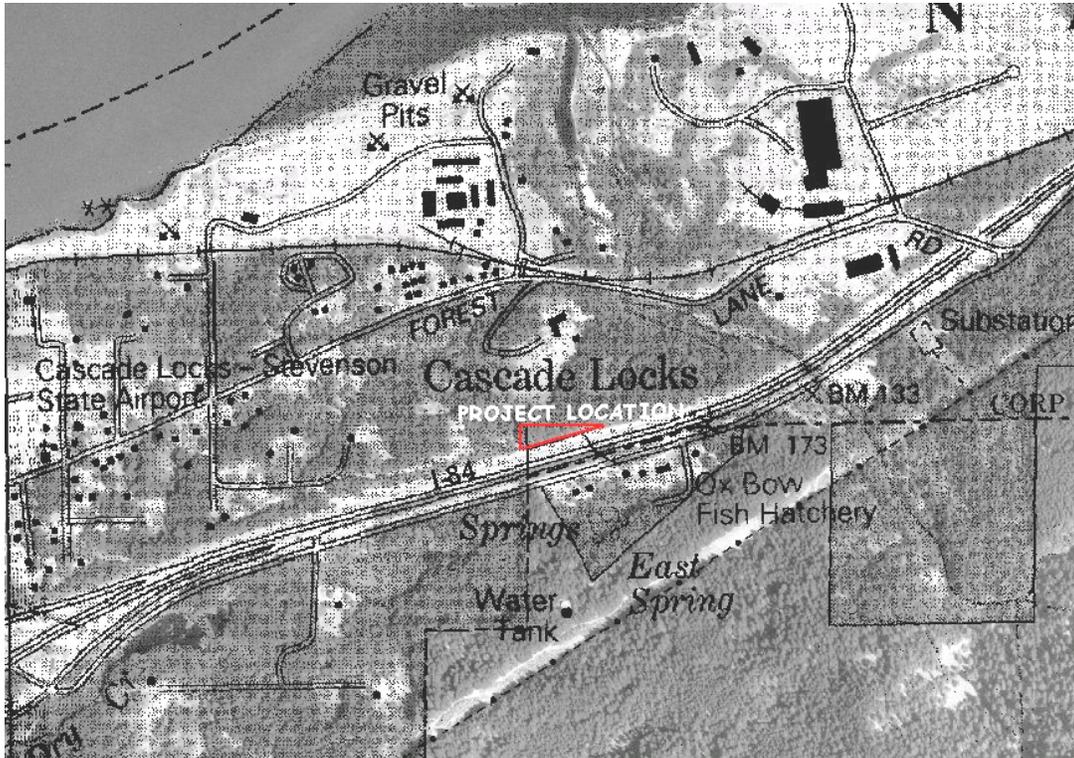


Hazard Trees Location and Existing Condition Description

A small, (9 acre) triangle of National Forest System (NFS) land is located north of the I-84 Corridor in the Urban Area of Cascade Locks. The legal land description of the project is T2N R8E S07, Taxlot 100 in Hood River County, Oregon.

The Forest Service was contacted by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) with an inquiry about the land ownership of the above parcel. A field investigation found a small triangle of trees killed by the Herman Creek fire in 2003. Most trees on the parcel are dead. The CRGNSA defines a hazard tree as “a tree with a structural defect that will predictably result in whole or partial failure within 1.5 tree lengths of a road or maintained development. A defective tree is hazardous only when its failure could result in danger to people or damage to structures, vehicles, or other property”.





Proposed Action

The proposed action is to cut and remove all of the trees that meet the definition of a hazard tree. The property that will be considered is I-84 and the proposed housing development to the south of the parcel. The parcel would then be reforested with Douglas-fir.

NEPA Document

At this time, the Area Manager is considering using one of the new categorical exclusion authorities, "Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction" (Category 13) If it is determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist (see Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30.3), the proposed project may be documented in a Decision Memo.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please bring them to our attention by October 27, 2004. Send comments Diana Ross at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, 902 Wasco Avenue, Hood River, Oregon, 97037, phone: 541.308.1716, e-mail: comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel T. Harkenrider

DANIEL T. HARKENRIDER
Area Manager

