

INFORMATION HANDOUT

For Contract No. 02-4F4104

At 02-Sis-96-33.2

Identified by

Project ID 0212000107

PERMITS

PLAC - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Informal Consultation dated January 23, 2014

PLAC - Permit Condition Responsibility (PCR) Summary

WATER QUALITY

PLAC - North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Conditional Waiver dated January 9, 2014

MATERIALS INFORMATION

Geotechnical Memo, dated January 13, 2013

Optional Disposal Site, dated December 4, 2013

Fall Trees Information, dated December, 2013

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office

1655 Heindon Road

Arcata, California 95521

Phone: (707) 822-7201 FAX: (707) 822-8411

In Reply Refer To:

AFWO-14B0015-14I0022

JAN 23 2014

Chris Quiney
Environmental Branch Chief R1
California Department of Transportation, District 2
1031 Butte Street MS30
Redding, California 96001

Subject: Informal Consultation for the Automatic Slide Permanent Repair Project, State Route 96, Siskiyou County, California

Dear Mr. Quiney:

We have reviewed your request, dated January 10, 2014, and received January 15, 2014, for informal consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the Automatic Slide Permanent Repair Project, State Route 96, Siskiyou County, California. This response is prepared in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), and its implementing regulations (50 CFR § 402). As the lead Federal action agency for the project, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is seeking concurrence that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect," the federally listed as threatened northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*; spotted owl). Caltrans is also seeking concurrence that the proposed action will have "no adverse effect" on designated northern spotted owl critical habitat.

This letter transmits the Service's concurrence with Caltrans's "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" determination for the spotted owl. In addition, the Service concurs with Caltrans that the proposed action is unlikely to adversely affect designated spotted owl critical habitat.

Caltrans proposes to construct a rock barrier metal-mesh drapery curtain (150 feet tall by 170 feet long) over a slide on State Route 96 (SR96) in Siskiyou County, California. Proposed activities include cutting the base of the slide to create a catchment basin, installing metal poles into the side of the hill to suspend the curtain, hoisting up the curtain and affixing it to the poles, removing approximately 20 hazard trees, and installation of a new cross-drain culvert. Approximately 1,300 cubic yards of material will be removed from the base of the slide using heavy equipment, but controlled blasting may be required if solid rock is encountered and to achieve a clean face on the slope.

Construction equipment required for the project will be determined by the contractor, but will likely include: pick-up trucks, dump trucks, graders, backhoes, excavators, crane, bulldozers, compactors, water trucks, delivery trucks, asphalt concrete paving machines, rollers, rock drills, single rotor

helicopter, chain saws, and generators. Proposed construction activities will take approximately 30–45 working days to complete.

The action area for this project includes the project area (actual footprint of ground-disturbing activities), plus a buffer placed around the project area that represents the distance above-ambient construction-generated sound levels are predicted to penetrate nearby forested habitat (potentially causing auditory disturbance to nesting spotted owls) before being attenuated back down to ambient sound levels. Caltrans estimated the existing pre-project ambient sound levels as “high” (*i.e.*, 81–90 dB) and the anticipated construction-generated sound levels as “very high” (*i.e.*, 91–100 dB) for the large construction equipment, tree felling, and muffled blasting, but as “extreme” (*i.e.*, 101–110 dB) for sound generated by the single rotor helicopter. Using the Service’s 2006 auditory disturbance guidelines for the northern spotted owl, Caltrans used a 165-foot buffer distance as the auditory disturbance distance for use of large construction equipment, tree felling, and muffled blasting. Caltrans used a 500-foot buffer distance for helicopter use. Therefore, the project area plus the 500-foot buffer is considered the action area for the project.

There are no known spotted owl territory activity centers within the action area. The closest known spotted owl territory activity center occurs approximately 1.1 mile to the north of the action area. No suitable spotted owl nesting, roosting, or foraging habitat occurs within the 165-foot buffer distance, therefore it is unlikely spotted owls would be present during proposed activities that require heavy equipment, chain saws (for tree felling), or muffled blasting. However, a small amount (6.75 acres) of suitable nesting/foraging habitat occurs within the action area to the southeast of the project area on the east bank of the Klamath River. In addition, approximately 293 acres of suitable foraging habitat occurs within the action area. However, only a small amount of the suitable foraging habitat occurs near the project area proper, with most occurring along the flight path of the helicopter along the Klamath River from the Happy Camp, California airport to the project area. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations require a minimum safe altitude of 500 feet for helicopters in this area (FARS, 14 CFR), which matches the expected distance the helicopter sound will travel before attenuating back down to ambient sound levels (see above). Therefore, suitable spotted owl habitat along the flight path should not be exposed to above-ambient sound levels except at the actual project site where it will reduce altitude to assist with drapery installation and hauling of other materials to the top of the slide.

No spotted owl surveys have been conducted within the action area using Service-approved survey protocols. Therefore, Caltrans presumes that suitable habitat within the action area is occupied by spotted owls.

Designated spotted owl critical habitat occurs within the action area, but the portion of the project area where the 20 hazard trees will be removed is considered “unsuitable” by the Service. Further, none of the 20 trees to be removed are considered suitable for spotted owl nesting. Therefore, no adverse effects to designated spotted owl critical habitat within the action area are anticipated.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Caltrans, as the lead Federal action agency, proposes to implement the following measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to the federally listed northern spotted owl:

- 1) No suitable northern spotted owl nesting\roosting habitat or suitable nest trees will be removed or altered. The 20 trees that will be removed are not suitable for nesting spotted owls. Because no suitable spotted owl nesting\roosting or foraging habitat occurs within 165 feet of the project area, activities generating above-ambient sound levels, such as tree felling, use of heavy equipment, and muffled blasting may occur at any time of the year.
- 2) Helicopter use will be restricted to outside the spotted owl nesting season (*i.e.*, helicopter use can only occur between August 1st and the following January 31st).

Concurrence

The Service concurs with Caltrans' determination that the proposed construction activities, "may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect," the federally listed as threatened northern spotted owl, provided Caltrans implements the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. The Service concurs with these determinations based on information provided in a biological assessment and email and telephone correspondence with Caltrans environmental staff.

Conclusion

This concludes informal consultation on the Automatic Slide Permanent Repair Project, State Route 96, Siskiyou County, California. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act, as amended, should be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered; (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action; or (4) you are unable to implement all of the measures described above.

Thank you for your coordination on this project. Please contact fish and wildlife biologist Gregory Schmidt at (707) 825-5103 should you have further questions regarding this consultation.

Sincerely,



Bruce Bingham
Field Supervisor

cc:
Caltrans, Redding (Attn: Jeanne Mayer)
CDFW (Attn: JoAnn Dunn)

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PLAC CONDITION RESPONSIBILITY (PCR) SUMMARY

General:

This PCR Summary clarifies various PLAC requirements. Perform all work described in the PLACs on behalf of the Department unless otherwise stated below in Table 2. If a discrepancy exists between the PCR Summary and the PLAC, the PCR Summary governs.

Definitions:

Agency: A board, agency, or other entity that issues a PLAC

Activity: A task, event or other project element

PLAC Condition: a work activity and/or submittal required by a PLAC

Table 1 - Clarification of PLAC Requirements		
PLAC Name	Section of the PLAC	PLAC Requirement
All PLACs	Applicable PLAC sections	<p>Submittals: Submit to the Engineer when PLAC conditions require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications. The Engineer will contact the agencies. 2. Records to be maintained, within 5 working days after the activity. 3. Submittals 5 days before the agencies require them. The Engineer will review and submit to the agencies.

Table 2 - Work to be Performed by the Department		
PLAC Name	Section of the PLAC	PLAC Requirement
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements dated January 9, 2014	Cover Letter	Paragraphs 1 through 4

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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 9, 2014

California Department of Transportation
Attn: Ms. Jeanne Mayer
1656 Riverside Dr., MS30
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Ms. Mayer:

Subject: Sis 96 PM33.2 Automatic Slide Permanent Restoration Project (Caltrans EA No. 02-4F410) subject to Policy for Waiving Waste Discharge Requirements

File: CDOT Automatic Slide Permanent Restoration, SIS 96 PM 33.2

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff has completed review of the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) report of waste discharge (ROWD) received December 2, 2013, describing the proposal to install a metal mesh rock drapery curtain to prevent slide debris from falling onto the State Route 96 roadway (facility). The ROWD was submitted on behalf of the owner and operator of the Facility, Caltrans (herein after Permittee).

Based on technical review of the ROWD, Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed discharge qualifies under the waiver category, "Minor Dredging and Fill Operations," under Regional Water Board Resolution No. R1-2012-0099, *Policy for Waiving Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Waste Discharge* (Categorical Waiver Policy). Technical review of the submitted ROWD and design plans indicates that the project is consistent with the North Coast Region's Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) and meets the requirements of the Categorical Waiver Policy. We hereby waive the issuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the proposed minor excavation of a wetland seep feature.

The permanent slide repair project involves cutting back the face of a rock slide to create a catchment basin for falling rock. The slide area includes two State-jurisdictional seeps that would be temporarily impacted by construction activities. Temporary impacts would total

approximately 120 square feet (0.003 acres). It is expected that the impacts will be temporary because the water source sustaining the existing springs will not be affected and vegetation should re-establish over time.

Caltrans shall conduct a field review and take pre-project photos prior to the commencement of construction in the spring of 2014. A subsequent field review and photo-documentation event shall occur in the spring of 2015 to document seep size, presence/absence of vegetation, and overall trend toward matching or exceeding the pre-project level of beneficial uses (e.g., groundwater replenishment and wildlife habitat). A summary report shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board not later than August 15, 2015.

Caltrans shall implement the following measures to protect downstream waters from the effects of construction implementation:

- An environmentally sensitive area will be established between the southern project boundary and the Klamath River to preclude access and disturbance to riparian vegetation and the Klamath River;
- Caltrans and its contractors shall implement appropriate erosion and sediment controls to prevent dirt and other construction materials from discharging to State waters; and
- Removal of vegetation within the project area shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete operations.

Enclosed is a copy of the Categorical Waiver Policy.

If you have any questions, please contact Brendan Thompson of my staff, at Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2699.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

140109_BJT-dp_SIS96PM33.2_AutoSlidePermRestoration_WaiverLtr

Enclosure: Regional Water Board Resolution No. R1-2012-0099

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Memorandum

*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

To: STEVE TOPAL

Date: January 13, 2013

Attn: Byron Stanley

File: 02-SIS-96-PM 32.5/33.3
02-4F410 0212000107
Automatic Slide Restoration
Geotechnical Memo

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Engineering Services
Geotechnical Services

Subject: Automatic Slide-Geological Information for Material Handout

Per your request, we are providing a Geotechnical Memo for the Automatic Slide Restoration Project on State Highway 96 at postmile (PM) 33.2 in Siskiyou County, California. The bulk of the work by the Office of Geotechnical Design North (OGDN) for this project is incorporated directly into the design drawings and specifications for the Cable Mesh Attenuator System and expanded catchment at the toe of the slope. This memo is included to provide supplementary information regarding the geotechnical conditions at the site as they pertain to the design and construction of the Cable Mesh Attenuator System, and the excavation of the catchment at the toe of the slope.

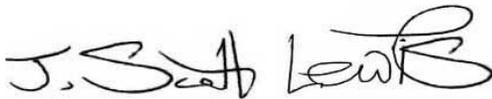
The site is located in rocks of the Galice Formation, specifically slate, greywacke, and greenstone, which range from fresh to moderately weathered, from very slightly fractured to moderately fractured, from thinly bedded to very thickly bedded. These rocks are mixed together on site with considerable local variation in structural orientation. The southern anchor system (see plans) is located in greywacke and possibly slate. The greywacke here is moderately hard, blocky, fresh to moderately weathered, slightly fractured, and thickly bedded. Blocks are separated either by structural joints or fractures that probably have an average spacing of about 3 feet, with some blocks as large as 10 feet thick.

The northern anchor and post system (see plans) appears to be located in slate and greywacke overlain locally by minor soil. The slate here is very thinly bedded, moderately hard, moderately fractured, and slightly weathered. The greywacke here is moderately bedded, hard, moderately fractured and moderately weathered.

The area at the bottom of the slope where the catchment expansion is planned is composed almost entirely of hard, fresh to slightly weathered, very thinly bedded, slightly fractured slate. The bedding dips steeply to the north, approaching vertical. Bedding is basically perpendicular to sub-perpendicular to the proposed cut face, making the proposed cut face stable kinematically. No seismic evaluation was performed to quantify rippability of this slate. Based strictly on field

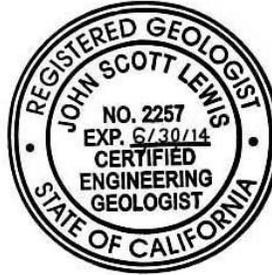
observations of the slate, coupled with geological and engineering judgment, our Office considers this rock to be difficult to rip with a D-9 dozer with a single shank ripper. Excavator driven hoe-rams will likely be successful in chipping away at the slate, but is anticipated to be slow-going. Blasting may be necessary. All blasting shall be performed in accordance with Standard Special Provision 19-4 Rock Excavation, which requires pre-splitting.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (530) 225-3516.



J. SCOTT LEWIS, P.G., C.E.G., P.G.P.

Associate Engineering Geologist
Office of Geotechnical Design – North



ec: Steve Topal
Derek Willis (Project Manager)
Charlie Narwold
Reza Mahallati
OGDN File gs_file_room@dot.ca.gov
Geotech (Archive Geodogg)
R.E. Pending File (Byron Stanley- Project Engineer)
District 2 O.E. (Deena Matagulay & Lynne Anderson)
Byron Berger, D02 Materials Lab

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INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT

FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
IN SISKIYOU COUNTY
APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES WEST OF HAPPY CAMP
ON STATE ROUTE 96

Project Location
SIS-96-PM 33.2
Automatic Slide Permanent Restoration

OPTIONAL DISPOSAL SITE
Bunker Hill, SIS-96-PM 28.5

Note: The records from which this compilation was assembled, may be inspected in the District 2 Office at 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding, CA 96001 or Contact the Disposal Site Coordinator, Russ Irvin (530) 225-2084, e-mail: Russell_Irvin@dot.ca.gov

Facts stated herein are as known to the State of California, Caltrans, and are to be verified by the Contractor as per Section 6-2 of the Standard Specifications.

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General Provisions

This disposal site is provided by Caltrans, at the option of the contractor for the disposal of excavated earthen materials generated from the Automatic Slide Permanent Restoration Project, located on State Route (SR) 96 in Siskiyou County, at post mile (PM) 33.2, approximately 8 miles west of the Community of Happy Camp. The earthen material will be deposited at an existing Caltrans disposal site, an undeveloped lot located on State owned property, within Siskiyou County off highway 96 at PM 28.5.

This site is used by Caltrans Maintenance and other contractors for various purposes, without exclusive use to anyone. All safety precautions must be observed. The Maintenance Supervisor contact, Ryan Gomes, shall be contacted at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of work (phone # (530) 496-3608). Maintenance will direct contractor to area of disposal.

The only materials to be disposed at this site by the contractor:

- Earthen material; quantity estimated at approximately 860 CY.

Winter Restrictions for this site:

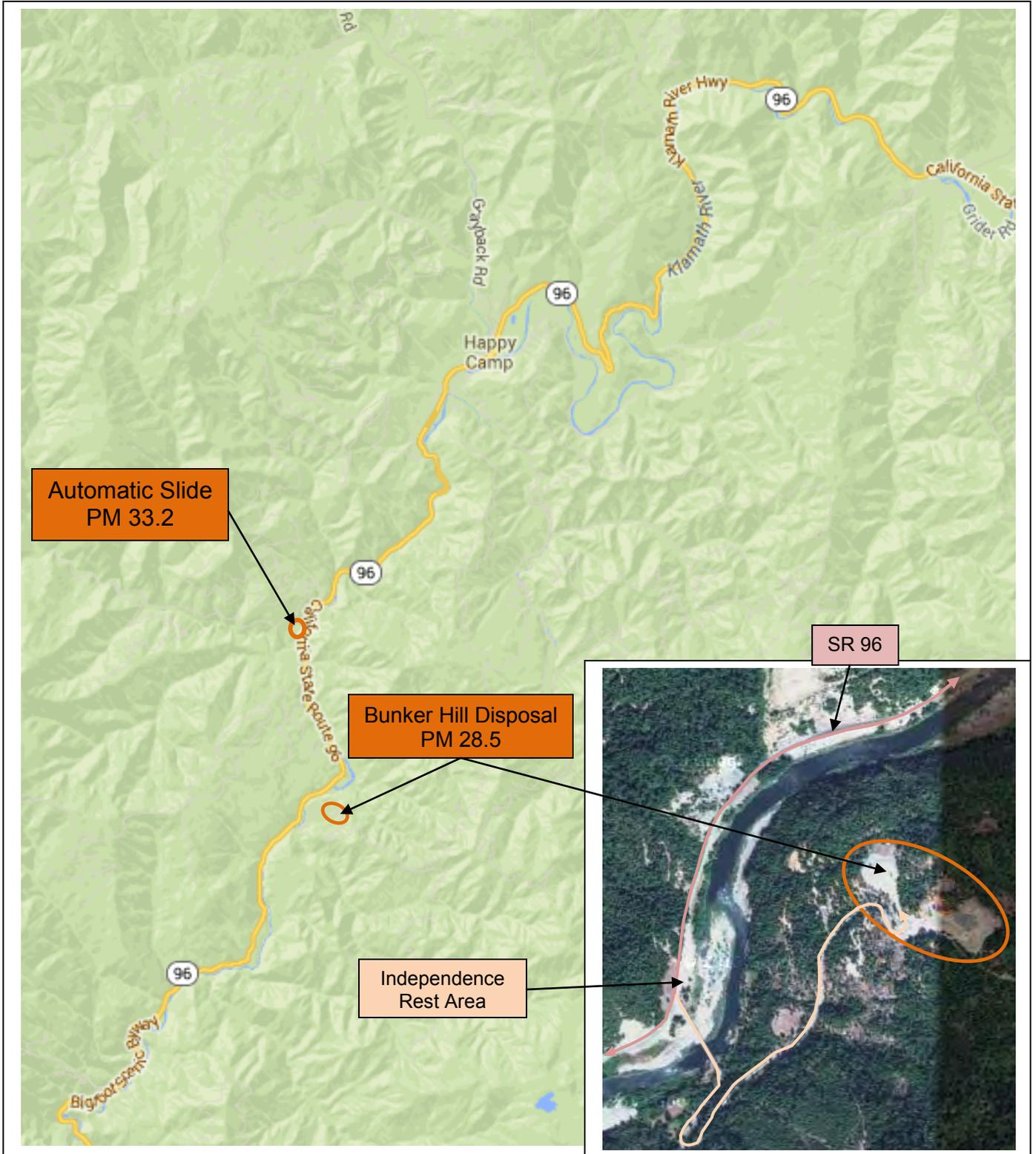
- The paved Forest Service road to the disposal site is subject to restrictions and conditions; therefore the use of this site is strictly prohibited if the ground is frozen or if snow is present. During these conditions, the contractor will need to use an alternative disposal site.

Provisions that apply:

- Buried man-made objects may exist within areas designated for excavation. The State assumes no liability for damage to Contractor's equipment. No compensation will be made to the contractor for the handling of non-hazardous man-made objects.
- Existing facilities at the disposal site shall be protected from damage by the Contractor in accordance with Section 7-1.11 "Preservation of Property", of the standard specifications.
- Materials are to be placed within the site limits in an organized and safe manner, with no risk of instability to embankments and shall be compacted in accordance with section 19 of the standard specifications. The finished surface shall be uniformly graded.
- All drainage ditches shall be protected and preserved by the contractor.
- Construction Storm Water Best Management Practices shall apply to these sites. No additional compensation shall be made for placement of the erosion control measures at the disposal site. This site must be included in the contractor's Storm Water Pollution Control Program.
- Hazardous or materials containing natural occurring asbestos will be encapsulated with an 18" minimum of clean soil.

Location Map

Disposal Site SIS-96-PM 28.5



Site Plan

Use of this site will be under the direction of Maintenance staff and material should be disposed of in the general area indicated on the map, unless otherwise directed by Maintenance staff. Observe staked property lines.

Approved Disposal Site - Bunker Hill SIS-96-PM 28.5 (Right on Forest Service Route 15N17) State Property



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02-4F4101
02-SIS-96-33.2
AUTOMATIC SLIDE RESTORATION - INFORMATION HANDOUT
TREES TO BE CUT
December, 2013



Photo A. View looking at west side of slide in vicinity of Cable Mesh Attenuator western anchor location. Red Oval indicates location of about 4 trees to cut.

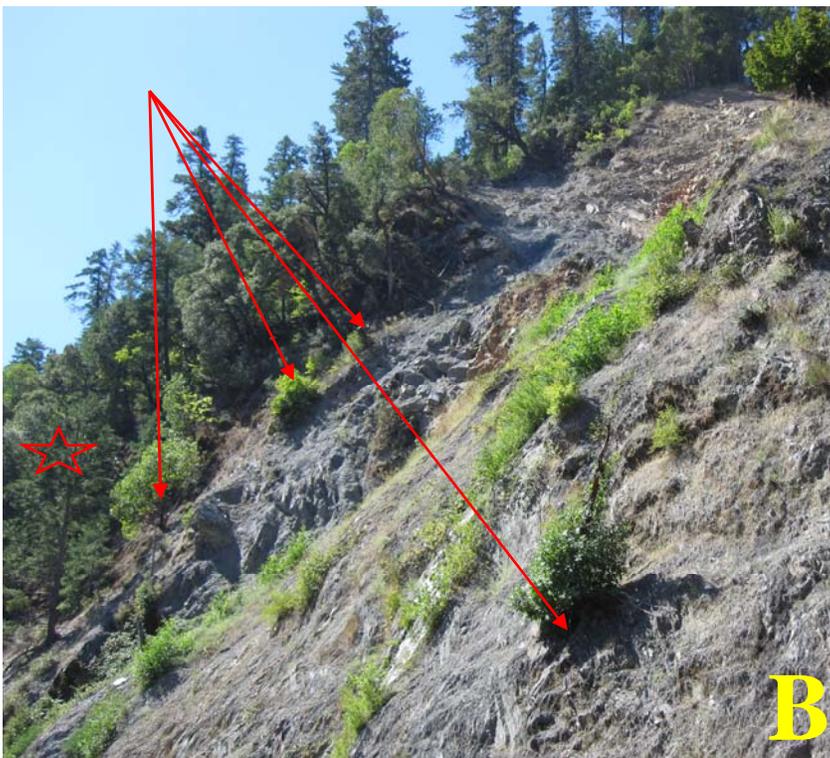


Photo B. View of lower portion of slide slope looking up and to the west. Tree to be cut is shown with red star. Smaller trees and/or shrubs to be cut are marked with arrows. Shrubs such as those indicated by the red arrows in photo 'B' are to be cut within 2 inches of the ground surface to prevent fouling the cable mesh on them.