

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-OR-E000-2012-0006-EA
Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Hoop Building Construction**

Background

This action proposes construction of a prefabricated hoop building (building size: 38 ft. wide x 15 ft. high x 80 ft. long) on a one-tenth acre site at the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard (Orchard), located in Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 5 West, Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon, in the Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The 832.5-acre Orchard is located about three miles west of Lorane, Oregon in the upper Siuslaw River basin (Figure 1). The Orchard is managed on lands that are closed to all public use per Public Land Order (PLO) 6662.

The Orchard was established in 1983 as a centralized tree seed orchard designed to provide genetically improved Douglas-fir seed for BLM's Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eugene Districts. The seed produced is genetically diverse and is well adapted for reforestation sites in western Oregon. In 1998, a cooperative agreement was initiated with ten private timber and seed companies. This has allowed the BLM to more cost effectively manage the orchard and make the existing genetic resources available to others.

Much of the maintenance and support of the Orchard is performed by government employees with government-owned equipment. This equipment is stored onsite in existing buildings. The Orchard also stores seed, pollen, cones and other biological materials that are collected at the orchard.

Purpose and Need for the Action

The purpose of this action is to construct a hoop building at the Orchard to improve the storage space available for equipment and biological material. An increased demand for storage capacity of the biological material has resulted in the addition of specialized storage equipment in existing buildings, reducing the amount of covered space for other equipment and items. The need for the additional storage capacity is due to decreased storage space in the existing buildings, and changes in the size and type of equipment required to perform Orchard operations. A hoop building would economically provide the additional space needed to adequately house equipment and materials.

Resource Management Plan Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP) (Bureau of Land Management 1995), which states that seed orchards will be maintained and managed to produce seed as needed for ecosystem management projects (RMP, p. 263). The RMP does not generally apply to the Orchard, which has been administratively withdrawn from other Eugene BLM lands (RMP, p. 100). Sections of the RMP contain provisions that do apply to the Orchard to ensure proper management of general government property, and for the oversight of the Genetic Program advancement. These sections include the Forest Genetics Program appendix, provisions in the Resource Program sections for Energy and Mineral, Tenure Adjustments, Right-of-Way, Access and Withdrawals.

Issues

Issues considered but not analyzed in detail

The site in which the hoop building would be located does not contain habitat for the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, or any other special status wildlife species.

Furthermore, noise created by construction and any potential audio disturbance to wildlife associated with that construction would not exceed the ambient noise resulting from the existing daily activities of the orchard.

Given the above information, there would be no effect to any federally listed or special status wildlife species known to occur in the vicinity; either through habitat modification or audio disturbance.

The potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternative on drinking water were considered, but not analyzed in detail because there are no private domestic water sources adjacent to the development site.

Alternatives

PROPOSED ACTION: Develop Hoop Building Site and Assemble Building

Approximately one-tenth of an acre area would be developed north of the orchard office compound as the base of a hoop building (see Figure 2). The hoop building would then be assembled from pre-fabricated materials and placed on the developed site. Construction would take place during a period when weather and site conditions are favorable for excavation, and water runoff from construction activities can be minimized (typically between May 1st and October 30th). General excavation specifications for the project can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Excavation Details

Project	Excavation			Material Disposal
	Type	Specs	Approx.	

			Excavation Area (ft²)	
Excavation	Leveling	54' X 90'	4,860	Backfill with Excavated Material Any additional material would be placed in a fallow ground, away from streams or riparian areas

Following excavation, the site would be leveled and compacted. An underlayment of geo textile material will be installed, which will be covered by 4” of compacted gravel. At some point in the future, a concrete pad could be laid over the gravel or it could be covered by a layer of asphalt to provide a consistently solid base.

The site is across a slight grade. The excavated material would be removed from one side and compacted on the other side. After leveling, geo textile material would be installed and a 4” lift of gravel would be compacted on the site. The building would then be erected and used for storage of Orchard equipment and some biological materials.

Native straw bales would be on site in the event of unexpected rainfall to lessen the potential for sediment transport from the construction site. The straw bales would be aligned to divert runoff onto stable terrain with dense vegetation. Additionally, equipment operations would cease during periods of heavy rainfall. Native grass seed would be used to vegetate exposed soils after project completion. Waste soil would be stockpiled on a ridge in Section 15 approximately 500 feet from the nearest stream.

ALTERNATIVE A: No Action

The Tyrrell Seed Orchard would not develop the hoop building site. All other activities related to orchard management would continue as usual.

Affected Environment and Environmental Impacts

The Orchard has been intensively managed, resulting in ecosystems comparable to agricultural landscapes. The affected environment is described in detail in the Environmental Impact Statement for Integrated Pest Management at Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard (USDI Bureau of Land Management, 2005)(pp. 3-1 to 3-26), which is incorporated here by reference. The site designated for construction is located in close proximity to existing orchard facilities, including a portion of the septic field. The following resources either are not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action or any of alternatives: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, cultural resources, floodplains, wetlands, hydric soils, prime or unique farmlands, Native American religious concerns, Wild and Scenic Rivers, wilderness, minority populations, and low income populations.

PROPOSED ACTION: Develop Hoop Building Site and Assemble Building. The project area is located on a ridge top approximately 800 feet from the nearest stream.

The greatest risk to water quality is the potential for runoff from excavation work. A densely vegetated buffer between the project area and a perennial stream makes it very unlikely that sediment from grading

activities would enter the channel. The PDCs would divert any runoff from the project site away from water features, avoiding any effects to water quality.

No stream crossings or other water features would be impacted under the Proposed Action. No impact is expected to aquatic habitat or aquatic organisms from the proposed project. The project location is not near any water features or habitat, the PDCs would prevent any runoff from reaching any water, and there are no crossings of streams by heavy equipment as part of the project description. Oregon Coast coho salmon do use some of the streams on the southern end of the Orchard, but there is no causal mechanism for the proposed action to affect the species or its habitat.

Effects to resident soils from additional compaction, severe displacement, and or other construction actions would be negligible because of past actions and management activities on this site, which included scarification, deep compaction, and other intensive site preparation activities.

No botanical habitat or habitat for any forest wildlife species would be lost or negatively affected by the proposed action. There is no threatened, endangered, or other Special Status botanical or wildlife species within the project site; therefore, there are no effects to these species from the proposed treatment.

The noise from the site development would be similar to that produced by daily activities around the Orchard office complex.

ALTERNATIVE A: No Action. This alternative would have no potential to impact water, soil, fisheries, botany, or wildlife, as there would be no change from the current conditions of the environment. Some government owned equipment would be at risk due to being stored outside, without protection from the elements. Excess cones would be stored outside in direct contact with the elements.

Consultation and Coordination

No consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service is necessary since there would be “No Effect” to any federally listed wildlife species as a result of this proposed action.

This EA will be mailed to the following list:

Organizations and Companies

American Forest Resource Council

Cadore Timber Co.

Cascade Timber Consulting Inc.

Cascadia Wildlands Project

Coast Range Conifers

Colorado State University Library

Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw
Indians

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

DiPaolo Timber Corp
Friends of Eugene
John Muir Project
Lane County, County Owned Lands Department
Lane County Land Management Planning Director
Lone Rock Timber Company
Menasha Corporation
National Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides
NOAA Fisheries
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mid Coast Office
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Doug Cottam
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jeff Ziller
Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District
Oregon Department of Forestry, Roseburg, OR
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Wild
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Rosboro, LLC
Roseburg Forest Products
Rural Information Network
Seneca Jones Timber Company, Bill Wynkoop and Ted Reiss
Seneca Jones Timber Company, Monica Jelden
Seneca Sawmill Company, Bill Moore
Sierra Club, Many Rivers Group
Siuslaw Watershed Council
South Coast Lumber
Swanson Group Inc., Dale Claasen
Swanson Group Inc., Don Hardwick
Tree Improvement Enterprises, Inc.
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS Siuslaw National Forest
Weyerhaeuser Company
Weyerhaeuser Company

Individuals

Albert Goins
Allison Hassler
Bart Pratt
Bob Stender
Brenda Gaines
Bruce and Sharon Malcom
Charles and Reida Kimmel

Craig and Cindy Royce
Craig Tupper
David Simone
Denise Ripiellino
Donald Wagner
Ira Kenneth and Barbara Ann
Dare
Jan Wroncy
Jeffrey and Shelly Corl
John and Barbara Robinson
John Poynter
Kate Gessert
Margaret Miller
Mark and Joyce Gorham
Molly Widmer
Norman and Sandra Maxwell
Pam Chenoweth
Peter Allison
Peter Saraceno
Ronald and Marla Norton
Rudy Wiedenbeck
S.A. and Barbara Azalone
Sandra Rhodes

List of Preparers

The Proposed Action and alternatives were developed and analyzed by the following interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists:

Dan Crannell	Wildlife and Threatened and Endangered Species
Mike Kinsey	Fisheries and Hydrology
Molly Widmer	Botanist
Rudy Wiedenbeck	Soil Scientist
Richard Hardt	Eugene District Planner
Mike Crawford	State Seed Orchard Program Manager
Cathy Lindberg	Archeologist
Emily Gregory	Forester/Orchardist (Author)

Figures

Figure 1 – Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Site Location for Hoop Building

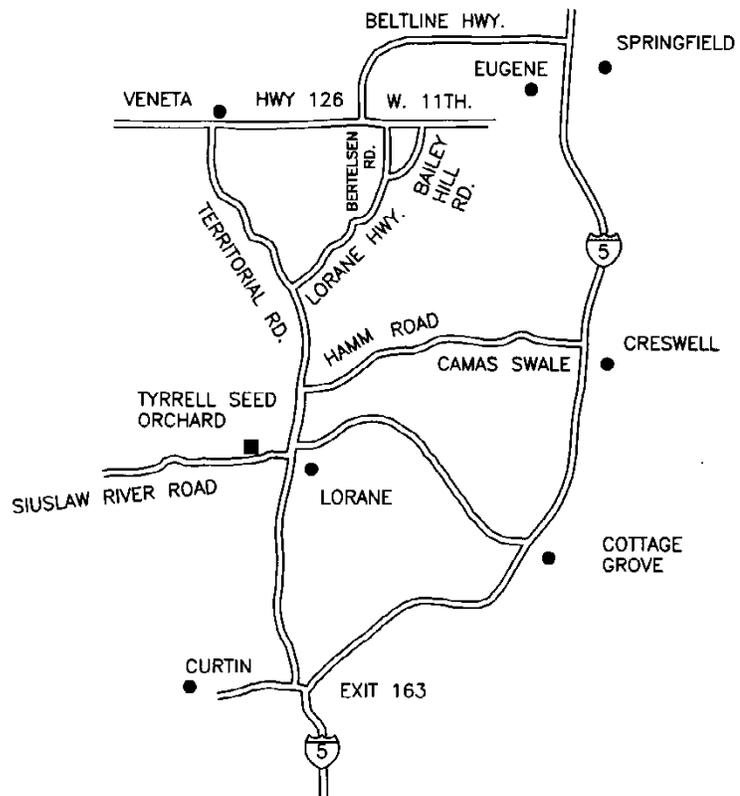
Figure 3 – Orchard Map

Figure 1: TRAVIS TYRRELL SEED ORCHARD VICINITY MAP

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District
Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard
26350 Siuslaw River Road
P.O. Box 121
Lorane, Oregon 97451

Telephone: (541) 683-6445
FAX: (541) 683-6597

From Eugene: Take West 11th and turn south on Bertelsen (which turns into Bailey Hill Road and then Lorane Highway) and proceed 12.5 miles. Turn left on Territorial Road and continue for 6 miles to Lorane. Turn right onto Siuslaw Road and travel 3 miles to orchard, which is on the right.



From I-5 North: Turn off I-5 at Creswell Exit 182 and turn right. Travel west 10.5 miles through Creswell to Camas Swale Road, which turns into Hamm Road. Turn left on Territorial Road and continue 5.5 miles to Lorane. Turn right onto Siuslaw Road and travel 3 miles to orchard, which is on the right.

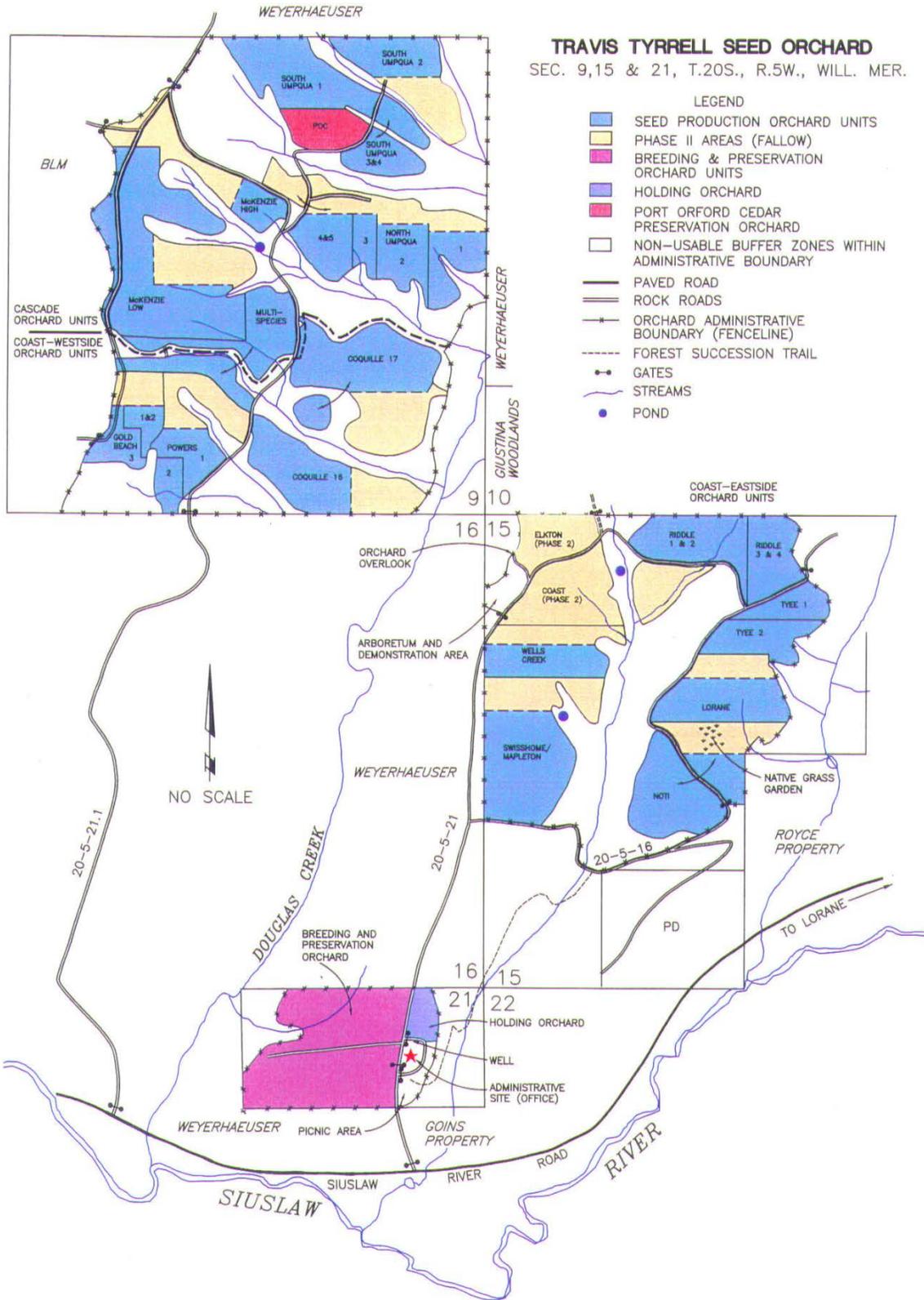
From I-5 South: Turn off I-5 at Curtin Exit 163. Turn right and travel 1 mile. Turn right at Lorane sign and go 9 miles to Lorane. Turn left onto Siuslaw Road and travel 3 miles to orchard, which is on the right.

From Cottage Grove: Proceed west on Main Street. This will turn into Cottage Grove-Lorane Highway. Go 12.5 miles. Turn left in Lorane onto Territorial Road. After approximately 300 feet turn right onto Siuslaw Road and go 3 miles to the orchard, which is on the right.

Figure 2: Site Location of Hoop Building



Figure 3: Orchard Map



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Finding of No Significant Impact
For the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Hoop Building Construction
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-E000-2012-0006-EA

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment (OR-E000-2012-0006) which analyzed the effects of constructing a prefabricated hoop building at the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard located at T. 20 S., R. 05. W., Willamette Meridian, Section 21.

The EA considered two alternatives: the no action alternative; and the proposed action, which is to construct the hoop building.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (OR-E000-2012-0006), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that the implementation of the proposed action is consistent with the objectives of the land use allocations, the Lorane Seed Orchard Development Project (EA-OR090-3-35), and the management direction of the 1995 ROD/RMP.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance, (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

Context

The Proposed Action would occur on BLM-administered lands that have been administratively withdrawn for the purpose of growing genetically improved Douglas-fir seed as designated by the 1995 Eugene District Resource Management Plan (RMP, p. 263). The proposed action is in compliance with the 1995 Eugene District RMP. The geographic and temporal scope of the reasonably foreseeable impacts that would result from the proposed action is the area and water flow immediately adjacent to the site construction, and the season in which the building is being constructed (EA p. 5-6). Therefore, the potential impacts of the proposed action are of limited geographic extent and short duration.

Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity of the impacts that would result from the proposed action relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

With regards to each:

1. **Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.** Both beneficial and adverse impacts effects especially for relevant resources such as water quality. The EA analysis did not identify any beneficial effects to environmental resources. As described in the EA, any adverse effects to resources, including water quality, soils, and habitat, would be of highly limited geographic and temporal extent and negligible in intensity (EA, p. 4).
2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.** No aspect of the proposed action would have an effect on public health and safety.
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** There are no known parks, prime farm lands, wilderness, or wild and scenic rivers in the project area. The proposed project would not affect cultural resources.
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The effects of the action planned under the proposed action are similar to many other construction projects conducted at the orchard, and is within the scope of the 1995 Eugene RMP. No scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the proposed action
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involved unique or unknown risks.** The analysis has not shown that there would be any unique or unknown risks to the human environment not previously considered and analyzed under the 1995 RMP. Temporary construction and site preparation have been conducted and analyzed several times at the orchard with little to no effects to the human environment.
6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions. The proposed action is consistent with action appropriate for the orchard operations for the propagation of genetically advanced Douglas-fir seed, as designated in the 1995 Eugene District ROD/RMP.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant by cumulatively significant impacts.** The environmental analysis did not reveal any cumulative effects to the resources that would be affected by the proposed action (EA, p. 4).
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.** There are no features

within the planning area that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or are significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species of its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. As addressed in the EA, the proposed action would have no effect on any endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The proposed action does not threaten to violate any law. The proposed action is in compliance with the 1995 Eugene District RMP, which provides direction for the protection of the environment on public lands.

Determination:

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the Eugene District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (November 1994), and the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an EIS or a supplement to the existing EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Virginia Grilley
District Manager
Eugene District BLM

Date