

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD

Woodcock Bog Monitoring
CE #OR117-08-08

I. PROPOSED ACTION

A. Proposed Action Title / Type: Woodcock Bog Research Natural Area (RNA) microbial and water chemistry monitoring.

B. Location/Land Use Allocation: The project is in riparian reserves located in the Woodcock Bog RNA, T39S R8W Section 31.

C. Description of Proposed Action Including Purpose of Action:

The Woodcock Bog monitoring project seeks to determine the fluid, rock, and gas geochemistry of serpentine systems in the wetland areas on the southeastern slope of Woodcock Mountain; to characterize the microbial diversity in serpentine fluids/springs/seeps at this site; and to document the mineralogical makeup of serpentine systems at this site. Monitoring would take place over two years beginning in January 2008.

Rock and secondary minerals, natural waters, and gases would be sampled using portable field collection gear (rock hammers/chisels, water filtration apparatus and clean bottles, inverted funnel gas samplers). The monitoring activity expects to collect approximately 20 rock, water, and gas samples in the RNA.

Monitoring would also include spectrophotometric field chemistry analyses, using portable gear and simple reagents. Reagent waste would be collected and removed from the site.

To collect continuous samples, small (~7" x 2" x 2") cylindrical canisters would be placed in areas of active seepage/water flow for 2-8 weeks, to get a comprehensive sampling of microbial life in the water. These cylinders would allow natural water to enter and exit, unadulterated. At the start, the interior of these cylinders will contain sterile glass beads, sterile mineral chips, or nothing.

Project Design Features

- No disturbance or sampling within 10 feet of the old miners ditch.
- To protect against the spread of the Port-Orford disease, *Phytophthora lateralis*, wash equipment and boots with bleach water prior to sampling outside the RNA.

II. PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action is in conformance with the following land use plans:

- the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994);
- the *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995);
- the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004);
- the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (FSEIS, 2000 and ROD, 2001) including any amendments or modifications in effect as of March 21, 2004;
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS 1985).

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

Categorical Exclusion Determination

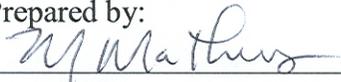
The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 J(3): Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the "extraordinary circumstances," included in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, must be reviewed for applicability (See attached review). After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect. The action will not require additional analysis.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact Mike Mathews Grants Pass Resource Area Environmental Planner at (541) 471-6564.

Prepared by:



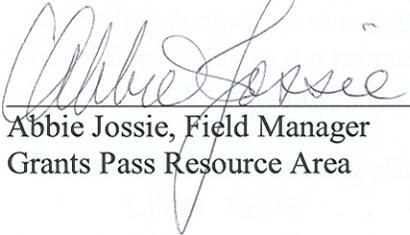
Mike Mathews, Environmental Planner
Grants Pass Resource Area

12-26-07

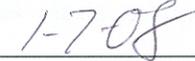
Date

III. DECISION

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance and NEPA compliance review and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described.



Abbie Jossie, Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area



Date

NEPA COMPLIANCE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Woodcock Bog Monitoring
CE #OR117-08-08

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A(3) and Appendix 2 requires the review of the following exceptions to categorical exclusion. If it is determined that any of the following exceptions apply to the proposed action, the proposed project is not categorically excluded and environmental documents must be prepared:

1) Has significant adverse effects on public health or safety.

Yes No Remarks:

2) Adversely affects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principle drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.

Yes No Remarks:

3) Has highly controversial environmental effects.

Yes No Remarks:

4) Has highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involves unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes No Remarks:

5) Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental affects

Yes No Remarks:

6) Is directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes No Remarks:

7) Adversely affects properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Yes No Remarks:

8) Adversely affects a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species or adversely affects designated critical habitat for these species.

Yes No Remarks:

9) Violates a Federal law, or state, local, or tribal law or requirement to protect the environment.

Yes No Remarks:

10) Adversely affects low income or minority populations.

Yes No Remarks:

10) Adversely affects low income or minority populations.

()Yes (x)No Remarks:

11) Limits access to and ceremonial use of Indian Sacred sites on Federal Land.

()Yes (x)No Remarks

12) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species.

()Yes (x)No Remarks

Reviewer(s): John M Sgh
Botany

Date: 12/20/2007

John G Smith
Wildlife

12/20/07

Lisa Brown
Cultural Resources

12/24/07

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Fisheries

12/20/2007

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Soils/Water

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