

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District

Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

BLM Office: Coos Bay District, Myrtlewood Field Office

Tracking No.: DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2011-0001-DNA

A. Description of the Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to restore fish habitat through increasing stream channel complexity by adding logs to streams within the Big Creek 6th field watershed.

Proposed Action Title/Type:

Big Creek Instream

Location /Legal Description:

Big Creek – T. 29 S., R. 11 W., section 12; T. 29 S., R. 10 W., section 6;
T. 28 S., R. 10 W., sections 31 and 32

Brownson Creek and Trib. – T. 29 S., R. 11 W., sections 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11

Axe Creek – T. 29 S., R. 11 W., sections 12 and 13

Bear Pen Creek – T. 29 S., R. 10 W., sections 6 and 7

Swamp Creek – T. 28 S., R. 10 W., sections 32 and 33; T. 29 S., R. 10 W.,
sections 3 and 4

Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to place approximately 600 tree pieces along 11 miles of Big Creek and its main tributaries to improve fish habitat within the Big Creek 6th field watershed. The project includes configuring whole trees, trees with attached rootwads, and cut logs in jams consisting of two to ten logs per jam. The placement method would vary based on road access, and would include the use of a helicopter, excavator or cable yarder.

To improve visibility and safety during helicopter placement, the contactors would cut approximately 3-5 hardwoods as needed around the log placement sites. Project implementation would follow seasonal and daily timing restrictions to prevent disturbance to nesting northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

The project proponents would obtain trees from BLM and private land within the Big Creek, Elk Creek, Belieu Creek and Sandy Creek watersheds. This includes the acquisition of an estimated 440 trees to provide approximately 600 pieces of wood. Trees on BLM lands would come from stands 30-79 years old that would benefit from thinning as described in the Paradise Creek Watershed Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (Paradise EA). Contractors would cut trees and leave those trees in place for the equipment to place in the channel or the contractor would yard the trees to the road. The contractor would use a self-loader to stage a portion of these logs closer to placement sites. The project includes pushing over approximately 150 trees adjacent to roads on BLM and private land to keep the rootwads attached.

The BLM will complete botanical surveys (currently ongoing) for special status lichens, bryophytes and vascular plant species on the BLM lands within the project area prior to any tree cutting or log placement. Tree cutting and log placement activities will avoid any special status plant sites (found during surveys) such that the species remains undisturbed and persists on the site.

Cultural resources surveys are ongoing; however, the likelihood is low that the BLM would find any sites because of the history of disturbance within the stream channels. If the BLM finds historical sites or objects of cultural value in subsequent surveys, the project proponents would design implementation to avoid and buffer these sites to protect them from damage. In addition, if the BLM finds any objects or sites of possible cultural value such as historical or prehistoric ruins, fossils or artifacts, all activities in the vicinity would immediately be suspended and the Authorized Officer would be notified of the findings. Operations would resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the Authorized Officer.

This proposal is substantially similar to the proposed action of the Paradise EA (OR 125-05-06). Project implementation would follow applicable Best Management Practices, Management Requirements and Mitigation Measures listed on pages 11-13 of the EA. As the project proponents obtained federal funding from Title II of the

Secure Rural Schools legislation, this NEPA analysis will cover log placements on BLM and private land. The project proponents are also seeking additional funding from OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

The BLM developed this project under the management direction of the *1995 Coos Bay District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 ROD/RMP). The analysis supporting this decision tiers to the *Final Coos Bay District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI 1994). This 1995 *Record of Decision* is also supported by, and consistent with, the *1994 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its associated *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994).

- The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:
 - Design and implement watershed restoration projects in a manner that promotes long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems, conserves the genetic integrity of native species and attains the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (p.17).
 - Design and implement fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (p.30).

- The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (Objectives, terms, and conditions):
 - Maintain or enhance the fisheries potential of streams and other waters consistent with BLM's Fish and Wildlife 2000 Plan, the Bring Back the Natives initiative and other nationwide initiatives (p.30).
 - Promote the rehabilitation and protection of at-risk fish stocks and their habitat (p.30).

C. Identify applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Environmental Assessment for the Paradise Creek Watershed Restoration Project. EA#OR125-05-06 (USDI 2005).

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, project management plans, water quality restoration and monitoring report).

Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Aquatic Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington, CY 2007-2012 (ARBO) 2008/03507 National Marine Fisheries Service (USDC 2008)

Biological Opinion and Letter of Concurrence for Programmatic Aquatic Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington (ARBO) 8330.F0055(07) United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USDI 2007)

Big Creek Watershed Analysis (USDI 1997)
East Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis (USDI 2000)
Middle Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis (USDI 2007)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria.

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed Big Creek project is the same as the action alternative analyzed in the Paradise EA. Contractors would place logs by the same means in similar stream channels and in similar configurations as those in the Paradise

Creek watershed restoration project. The design features and anticipated environmental consequences of the proposed Big Creek project are essentially the same as those analyzed in the Paradise EA.

The proposed project is not within the same analysis area as analyzed in the Paradise EA. However, the proposed treatment reaches in the Big Creek watershed are similar to those found in the Paradise Creek watershed. The reaches are lacking large wood and have simplified channels. Fish species found in the Big Creek watershed are also found in Paradise Creek watershed and include chinook, coho, steelhead, cutthroat and lamprey.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The range of alternatives analyzed was appropriate with respect to the Big Creek project. The only alternatives considered in the Paradise EA were the action and no-action alternatives. The current environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Since the development of the Paradise EA, there have been legal changes that have resulted in the re-instatement of portions of the Survey & Manage program. The BLM is operating under the October 11, 2006, Court stipulation that allowed certain projects to go forward while the legal issues of the case are being resolved. The following exemption allows this project to go forward without conducting pre-ground disturbing surveys for Survey & Manage species: "Riparian and stream improvement projects where the riparian work is riparian planting, obtaining material for placing in-stream, and the stream improvement work is the placement of large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions."

While the Paradise EA action area is out of the range of Port-Orford Cedar, staff specialists have included an analysis of POC and the Risk Assessment Key as required by the 2005 EIS.

When the BLM prepared the EA in 2005, there was no requirement to show compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. For this project to comply with the RMP, staff specialists have now included an analysis of the effects of the Big Creek Instream project on each ACS Objective in the analysis file.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

The analysis of direct and indirect impacts starts on page 22 of the Paradise EA. The Paradise EA contains analysis of the effects of log placements by the same methods in this proposed action. The outcome of the Paradise Creek project demonstrated that the prescribed management practices, management requirements and mitigation measures in the EA achieved the desired objectives. The project proponents will apply these same practices, requirements and measures to the Big Creek project.

Based on review by an interdisciplinary team (listed below), the anticipated direct and indirect effects of the proposed Big Creek project are essentially the same as identified in the Paradise EA. The EA included a broad discussion of the cumulative effects of implementing this action, particularly in regards to salmon recovery.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The original NEPA document underwent public scoping; one question was asked and answered. There were no comments on the EA or FONSI. There was no appeal of the Decision. Finally, this project will undergo a 15-day protest period.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency/Resource Represented</u>
Aimee Hoefs	Env. Protection Specialist	NEPA/Team Lead
Stephanie Messerle	Fish Biologist	Fisheries
Larry Standley	Hydrologist	Hydrology
Tim Rodenkirk	Botanist	Botany
Jim Heaney	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Stephan Samuels	Archaeologist	Cultural/EJ
Paul Gammon	Env. Protection Specialist	Hazardous Materials
Jim Kirkpatrick	Forester	POC/Weeds
Jered Bowman	Forester	Forestry

Conclusion:

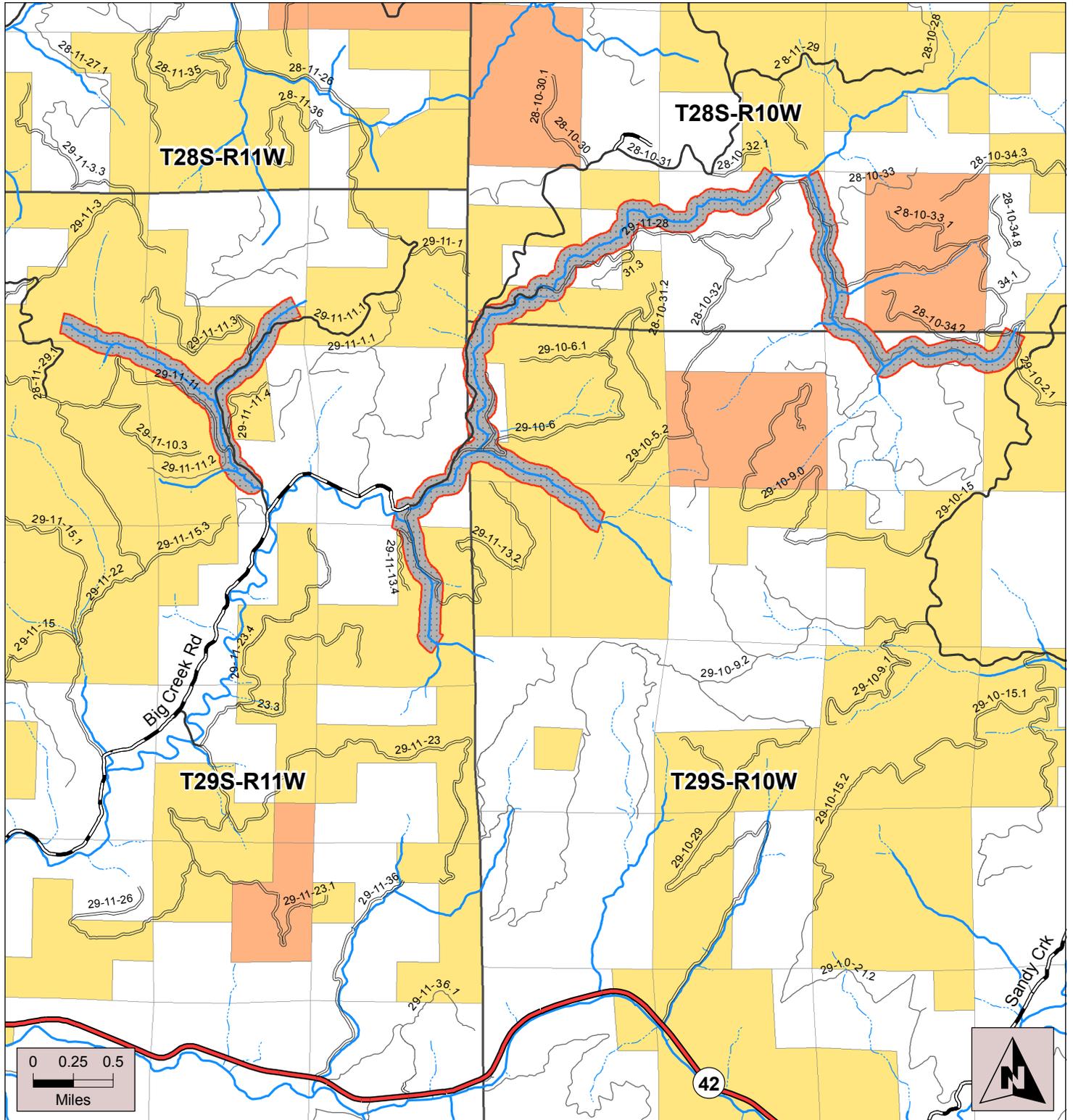
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and this documentation constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Signature of Project Lead /s/ Stephanie Messerle

Signature of NEPA Coordinator /s/ Aimee Hoefs

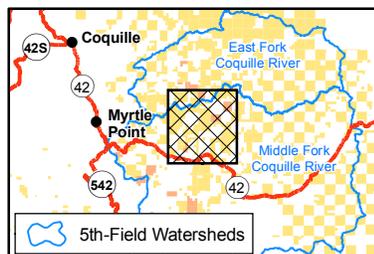
Signature of the Responsible Official: /s/ Kathy Hoffine Date: 1/06/2011

Big Creek Instream Restoration Project



Map Features

-  Highway 42
-  County Road
-  Paved Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Natural/Unk Road
-  Fishbearing Stream
-  Non-Fishbearing Stream
-  Potential Treatment Reaches
-  BLM Administered Land
-  Bureau of Indian Affairs
-  Private/Other Lands



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