

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

**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

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**BLM Office:** Coos Bay District, Myrtlewood Field Office

**Tracking No.:** DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0006-DNA

**A. Description of the Proposed Action:** Restoration of fish habitat through increasing stream channel complexity by adding large diameter logs to the stream.

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Elk Creek In-stream

**Location / Legal Description:** Elk Creek – T. 28 S., R. 11 W., sections 23 and 27  
South Fork Elk Creek – T. 28 S., R. 11 W., section 36  
Tributary to S.F. Elk Creek T. 28 S., R. 11 W., section 35

**Proposed Action:**

The main objective of the proposed project is to restore fish habitat in the Elk Creek 6<sup>th</sup> field sub-watershed. Elk Creek contains chinook, coho, steelhead, cutthroat and lamprey. Logs would be placed on BLM land in North Fork Elk Creek and adjoining tributaries. An average of 80 logs per mile would be placed by a helicopter or excavator. Helicopter placement would occur in sections 23, 27 and 35. Excavator and/or helicopter placement would occur in section 36.

To improve visibility and safety during helicopter placement approximately 3-5 hardwoods would be cut as needed around the log placement sites. Seasonal and daily timing restrictions would be followed to prevent disturbance to nesting northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

The proposed BLM action is a part of a larger project which also involves placing logs on the property of adjacent landowners of these streams. Funding for the project was obtained through an OWEB grant and involves a partnership with the Coquille Watershed Association, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Coquille Indian Tribe, Plum Creek Timber Company and the BLM. All logs for the project will be donated by the Coquille Indian Tribe.

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

This project is tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI BLM 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (ROD/RMP), as supplemented and amended. The Coos Bay District ROD/RMP is supported by and consistent with the *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* (Northwest Forest Plan [NFP]) (USDA/USDI 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994a).

- 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 Fish 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)

East Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis (USDI 2000)

**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?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: The proposed Elk Creek project is essentially the same as the action alternative analyzed in the Paradise EA. Logs would be placed by the same means in similar stream channels over a broad area and in similar configurations as those in the Paradise Creek watershed restoration project. The design features and anticipated environmental consequences of the proposed Elk 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 Elk 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 Elk 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?**

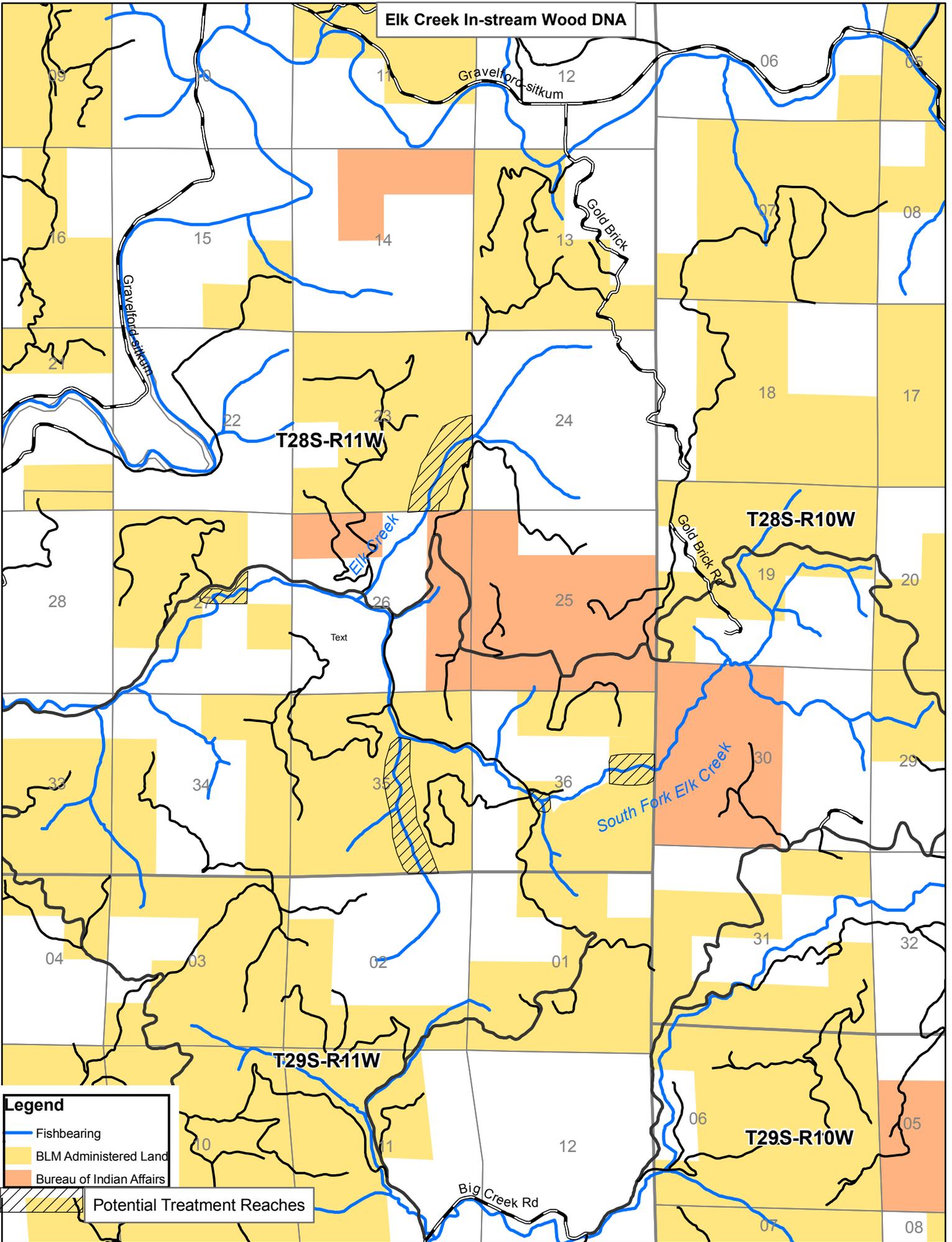
Documentation of answer and explanation: The range of alternatives analyzed was appropriate with respect to the Elk Creek project. The only alternatives considered in the Paradise EA were the action and no-action alternatives. The current environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not 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?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Since the development of the Paradise EA, there have been some 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."



**Elk Creek In-stream Wood DNA**



**Legend**

- Fishbearing
- BLM Administered Land
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Potential Treatment Reaches

Potential Treatment Reaches