

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

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Decision Record for DNA #10 to EA OR120-02-12

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Hantz Creek Culvert Replacement. The design features and environmental consequences from this type of project were fully analyzed in the original Environmental Assessment (EA).

Decision Rationale:

The proposed action has been reviewed by Field Office Staff. The Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet confirmed that this action has been adequately analyzed in the existing EA and is in conformance with the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan. The FONSI prepared for the Coos Bay District Culvert and Stream Crossing Environmental Assessment (OR120-02-12) is valid and appropriate. No further analysis is required.

Signature of Authorizing Official:

Paul T. Flanagan /s/

Field Manager

Date: *August 1, 2008*

Administrative Remedies:

Notice of the forest management decision to be made on the action described in this Determination of NEPA Adequacy will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District
DNA # 10 to EA OR120-02-12
Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

BLM Office: Coos Bay District, Myrtlewood Field Office
Applicant (if any):

Tracking No. OR120-02-12 DNA# 10

A. Description of the Proposed Action:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Hantz Creek Culvert Replacement

Location / Legal Description:

T. 28 S., R 11 W., Section 11

Proposed Action:

The proposed action would meet the purpose and need of the Coos Bay District Culvert and Stream Crossing EA OR 120-02-12 (p.1-2). Specific objectives of the EA which would be met include:

- Reduce barriers to movement and dispersal of aquatic-dependant organisms.
- Aid in recovery of special status fish species by increasing their range and improving access to historical habitats (EA, p.5).

The proposed action is to remove a stream crossing culvert and its associated head gate and concrete fish-way. A concrete bridge would be constructed to maintain access. The stream bottom would return to its natural state, allowing free-flowing access to approximately 1.25 miles of habitat for salmonids.

The following list describes the Design Features from the EA (p. 11-12) that would be implemented for the proposed action:

- During construction, techniques designed to minimize sediment delivery and turbidity (such as stream diversions using pumps or gravity flows and sediment control ponds) would be used. Silt dams and filters (such as straw bales) would be used to filter sediment from the water downstream of the project site. Appropriate controls would be in place before instream work is started.
- A spill containment kit would be present on site during equipment operations.
- Instream work would occur during instream work periods designated by the ODFW. The instream work period is typically during the dry season between July 1 and September 15. Extensions of normal work periods would be obtained from ODFW prior to the end of the normal work season.
- Removed fill material from road beds, culvert inlets and from channel bank shaping would be placed at stable locations as per District waste management policy developed for engineering and road maintenance projects.
- Upon completion of construction activities, all exposed soils and waste areas would be stabilized with a mixture of weed-free straw mulch and seed. Mulch would cover the ground until it is no longer visible. The District native grass mix seed would be used, if available. If not, the standard District mix of annual and perennial ryes would be used. Sites with considerable fill or bare slopes would use biodegradable mats to stabilize soils.

- Vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entering BLM lands and are required to stay within road rights-of-way.
- Noxious weed plants would be treated prior to any project activities. Treatment area (manual, mechanical, or chemical) would be large enough to limit contact with weeds/seeds. Where possible, existing native vegetation would be retained to provide shade, and soil disturbance would be minimized.

Seasonal and daily timing restrictions would apply because the culvert is located approximately 60 yards from unsurveyed suitable marbled murrelet habitat. No high-disturbance activities would occur between April 1st and August 5th. Between August 6th and September 15th potentially disturbing (i.e. above ambient noise) activities would be confined to 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset.

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* (USDI BLM 1995), as supplemented and amended, and 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 fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives” (RMP, p.30).
- “Cooperate with federal, tribal, and state fish management agencies to identify and eliminate impacts associated with habitat manipulation, fish stocking, harvest, and poaching that threaten the continued existence and distribution of native fish stocks inhabiting federal lands” (RMP, 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.

- Coos Bay District Culvert and Stream Crossing Environmental Assessment, EA OR120-02-12

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).

- East Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis, May 2000
- Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion #2008/03506, issued June 27, 2008 by the National Marine Fisheries Service
- Informal Consultation on Other Land Management Activities for FY 03-08, Ref # 1-15-03-I-006, issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This activity is exempt from fill and removal authorization requirements as regulated by the Oregon Department of State Lands (OAR 141-085-0020).

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: *Yes.* The action consists of a culvert removal and bridge installation, which was fully analyzed in the parent EA.

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: *Yes.* The IDT analyzed the same range of alternatives as in the original EA. No additional environmental concerns, interests, resource values or circumstances are known to be present at the current proposed action sites that would prompt the formation of additional alternatives.

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: *Yes.* The existing analysis is adequate as no new information have come to the fore that would have changed the conclusions of the EA. At the time of the original EA, OC coho was listed as a “threatened” species. It has since been “de-listed” and then “re-listed.” The analysis of effects has not changed over this time frame. There have been several changes to the Special Status Species list; however, the effects analysis of the original EA for aquatic species as a whole is still relevant through these policy changes. In 2004, The Coos Bay District RMP was amended by the Record of Decision for the *Management of Port-Orford-cedar in Southwest Oregon Final Supplemental Environmental Impact statement.* The POC Risk Key was done for this project and came to the same conclusions as the effects analysis in the EA.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: *Yes.* The proposed project would implement activities as described in the original EA. Impacts of these activities were analyzed in Chapter 4 of the EA.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: *Yes.* The original EA comment period of 30 days was adequate for the scope of the projects. One letter was received which was from the Coos County Commissioners on June 28, 2002. Their concern was regarding closing roads, built with “plow-back” funds, generated by O&C revenues for the purpose of reforestation, campgrounds, recreation, other improvements, and to build and maintain forest infrastructure. The BLM sent a letter back to the Commissioners stating that the two specific roads to be closed under the original EA were not built using “plow-back” funds. The comment from the Commissioners would not apply to the proposal to remove the culvert on Hantz Creek. The purpose of the road is for BPA to have access to their transmission lines and was not constructed using “plow-back” funds.

The BLM engaged in discussions with users of the road and pond. Users who were notified of the BLM’s intention to remove the culvert included Coos Fire Protection Association, Menasha Forest Products Corporation, Bonneville Power Administration, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Agency/Resource Represented</u> |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mike White | Bridge Unit Forester | Coos Fire Protection Association |
| Mark Hoye | Logging Engineer | Menasha Forest Products Corporation |
| Dustin Smith | Reality Specialist | Bonneville Power Administration |
| Todd Cupp | Line Foreman | Bonneville Power Administration |
| Ken Adamson | Engineer | Bonneville Power Administration |

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Bill Grey | District Fish Biologist | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Stephanie Messerle | Fish Biologist | BLM, Myrtlewood Field Office (FO) |
| Jim Heaney | Wildlife Biologist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Larry Standley | Hydrologist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Dale Stewart | Soil Scientist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Tim Rodenkirk | Botanist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Barry Hogge | Fuels Management Specialist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Paul Rodriguez | Realty Specialist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Stafford Owen | Road and ROW Specialist | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |
| Bill Hudson | District Fish Biologist | BLM, District Staff |
| Stuart Mitchell | Engineer | BLM, Engineering Branch |
| Gloria Robbins | Maintenance Manager | BLM, Maintenance Organization |
| Paul Flanagan | Field Manager | BLM, Myrtlewood FO |

Note: Refer to the original EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

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 constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

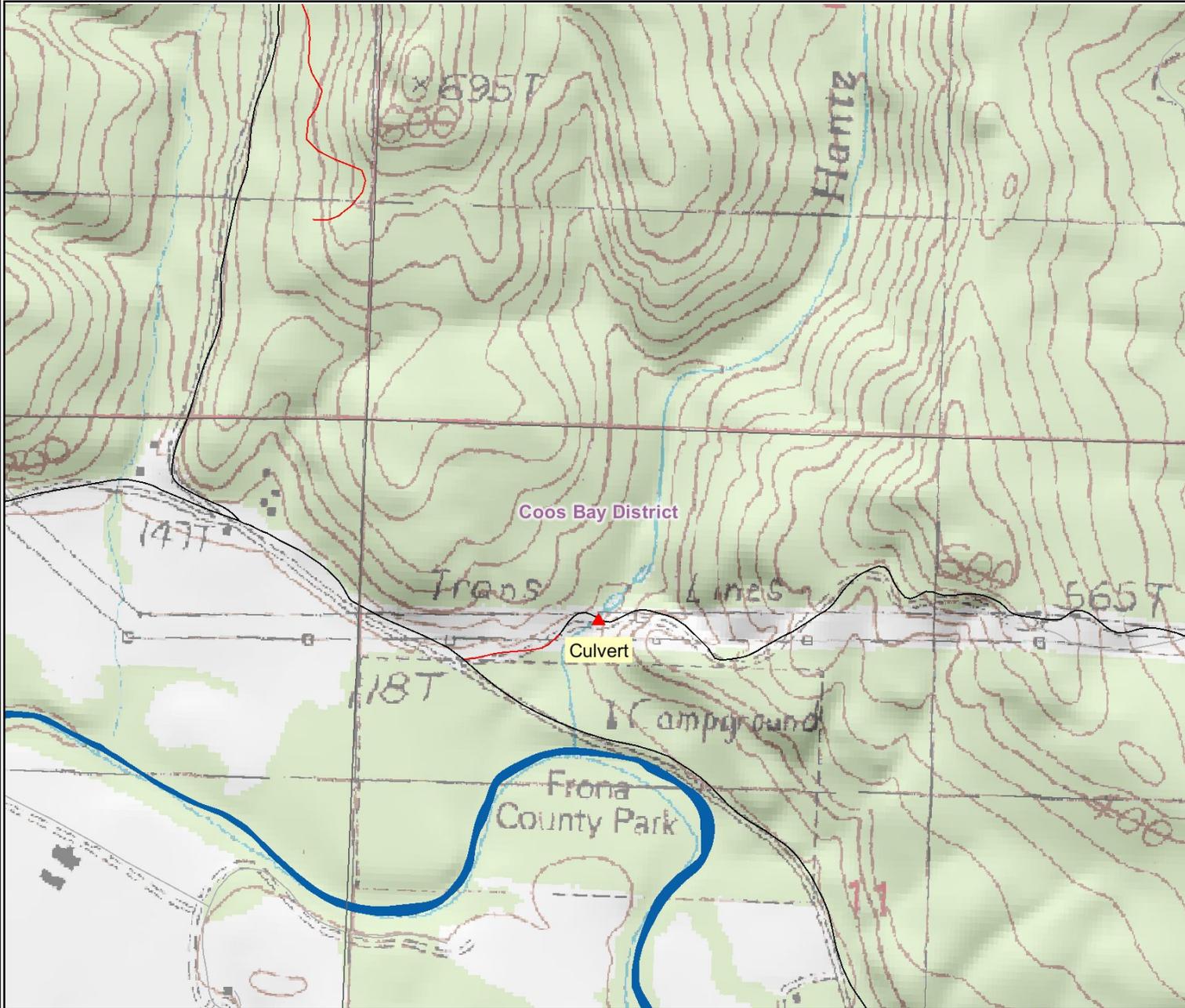
Signature of Project Lead *Stephanie Messerle /s/*

Signature of NEPA Coordinator *Aimee E.B. Hoefs /s/*

Signature of the Responsible Official: *Paul T. Flanagan /s/*

Date: *July 30, 2008*

Hantz Creek Culvert



-  Oregon Township and Range
-  Oregon Sections
-  Highways Large Scale
-  Interstate Highway
-  Federal Highway
-  State Highway
-  Other
-  Highways Ramps, Frontage Roads, Spurs, Connectors
-  Oregon Roads
-  County Roads
-  BLM Roads
-  Roads
- Lakes**
-  Perennial Lake
-  Intermittent Lake
-  Dry Lake
-  Unknown Lake
- IAT Lands**



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