

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

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

BLM Office: Coos Bay District, Umpqua Field Office **Tracking No.** DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2009-0004-DNA

A. Description of the Proposed Action:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Middle Creek and Cherry Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Project

Location / Legal Description: See table below. The stream reaches identified in the table encompass the entire extent within which structure placements could occur. However, like the Paradise Creek Watershed Restoration Project, there will be large gaps where no placements would occur because of site-specific conditions such as stream gradient, restricted access, or the existing habitat is in proper functioning condition. There would also be reaches where structures are concentrated, while others are widely spaced. Log placements would range from approximately two to ten logs per site. The extent and timing of work would be dependent upon available funding and cooperation with private landowners.

Proposed Action: Place logs, whole trees and boulder structures in fish-bearing streams in the Middle Creek and Cherry Creek Subwatersheds (MCCC). Placements would be done by helicopter where there is no road access and where it isn't practicable to place logs of sufficient size by other means, and land-based equipment such as excavators and cable where there is. Approximately 60-90 logs would be placed per stream mile, with the logs sizes based on site-specific conditions; in general, at least two logs per site will be twice the active channel width in accordance with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) policies. Boulder structures would be placed in mainstem Middle and Cherry Creek where it is not feasible to place large wood. Implementation of the project is expected to occur over a period of up to three to four years beginning in the summer of 2009.

| Stream Name | Legal Location Township South – Range West Section(s) | Stream Miles BLM | Stream Miles Private | Total Stream Miles |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lost Creek | 27-11-11 & 14 | 0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Alder Creek | 26-10-29, 30 & 31 and 27-10-06 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 2.8 |
| Vaughn's Creek | 27-10-05, 06, 07 & 08 | 1.8 | 0.2 | 2.0 |
| Park Creek | 27-10-04, 09 & 10 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 2.2 |
| Honcho Creek | 26-10-33 & 27-10-04 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| Mainstem Middle Creek | 27-10-05 & 06, & 36, 27-11-12 & 14 | 1.3 | 4.5 | 5.8 |
| Cherry Creek | 27-10-18 & 19, 27-11-23 & 24 | 3.4 | 0.6 | 4.0 |
| North Fork Cherry Creek | 27-10-17 & 18 | 1.2 | 0 | 0 |
| Little Cherry Creek | 27-11-25 & 26 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 2.1 |
| Total | | 13.8 | 8.1 | 21.9 |

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, (USDI BLM 1995) 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) (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:

- Promote the rehabilitation and protection of at-risk fish stocks and their habitat.
- 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.
- Rehabilitate streams and other waters to enhance natural populations of anadromous and resident fish. Possible rehabilitation measures would include, but not be limited to (ROD/RMPp.30):
 - Fish passage improvements
 - Instream structures using boulders and log placement to create spawning and rearing habitat.
 - Placement of fine and coarse materials for over-wintering habitat.
 - Establishment or release of riparian coniferous trees.

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.

Paradise Creek Watershed Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA OR125-05-06). Decision Date: 7/18/05

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).

The only listed fish species occurring within the project area is Oregon Coastal coho salmon, and the proposed project is consistent with the *Programmatic Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Fish Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington*. (NMFS, 2008; Ref. No. 2008/3506).

The Coquille River Subbasin Plan prepared by the Coquille Indian Tribe for the National Marine Fisheries Service in June 2007 identifies the North Fork Coquille 5th field watershed as the highest priority for restoration efforts in the Coquille River Subbasin.

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 project is essentially the same as analyzed in the Paradise EA, Affected Environment (pages 14-20) and Environmental Consequences (pages 22-38). Logs would be placed by the same means (helicopter, cable and excavator) in similar stream channels over a broad area and in similar configurations as those in the Paradise Creek watershed restoration project. The placement of boulder structures in bedrock-dominated stream reaches would also be essentially the same in that boulder placements would occur where wood placement is impractical or not approved by private landowners. The resource conditions are also similar in that virtually all fish-bearing streams have been degraded by land management practices, and both watersheds are located within the Tyee Sandstone formation which is susceptible to mass movement, rapid erosion, flash flooding, and landslides.

The MCCC restoration project would encompass more stream miles than the Paradise Creek project (up to

approximately 22 miles as opposed to a little over approximately 12 miles in the Paradise Creek action area). However, the watershed-level approach to restoration would be essentially the same. As with the Paradise Creek project, virtually all fish-bearing stream reaches in the watershed would receive some level of enhancement through the placement of logs, whole trees and boulder structures. The same or similar type of equipment would also be used to place structures.

The acquisition/sources of log are substantially the same because they would originate from several sources such as donations from private timber companies and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), purchases from available sources in the local area and from BLM-administered lands. The project would be implemented during the same low-flow conditions (generally July 1 – September 15). The range of stand and riparian conditions is also substantially the same with a mixture of age classes ranging from recent timber harvests to old-growth stands, and a significant component of riparian areas dominated by alder.

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 proposal. The current environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed. As with the Paradise EA, the only alternatives considered were the action and no-action alternatives because both projects incorporate the most efficient and cost-effective means of structure placements based on site-specific conditions. Although a helicopter could be utilized to place all of the logs, the cost per log placed is substantially greater than placements by land-based equipment, and there is very little difference in the end results. For more information, see the “Alternatives Considered in this Analysis” starting on page 8 of the EA.

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: There is no reason to believe that new circumstances would arise that would impact the project. Coho salmon were not listed under the Endangered Species Act when the Paradise Creek project was implemented, but they currently are listed as threatened. However, the fact that coho salmon is a listed species has no influence on the design or implementation of the restoration work. The manner in which the project would be implemented is consistent with the Programmatic Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion (ARBO) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Daily and/or seasonal timing restrictions to minimize impacts to wildlife species would also be adhered to in accordance with the US Fish & Wildlife Service Programmatic Biological Opinion; Aquatic Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington (June 14, 2007).

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: Based on reviews by an interdisciplinary team (listed below), the anticipated direct and indirect effects of the proposed actions are essentially the same as identified in the EA. The cumulative effects of implementing this action have been broadly discussed, 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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: The original NEPA document underwent scoping and a full environmental review, with no issues identified that required additional analysis (see page 5 of the EA). In general, public interest in stream projects has been low, and it is not likely that the proposed action would generate any new-found public interest or concern.

The proposed project would be implemented in cooperation with the Coquille Watershed Association, Campbell

Group/Menasha Inc, Plum Creek Timber Company and the ODFW. Just as with the Paradise Creek project, the Coos County Planning Department, the Oregon Division of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would review the project through the permitting process.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Agency/Resource Represented</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| John Colby | Hydrology | Water Quality and Hydrology |
| Meredith Childs | Silviculturist | Silviculture & Noxious Weeds |
| Tim Barnes | Geologist/Soil Scientist | Geology and Soils |
| Steve Langenstein | Wildlife Biologist | Wildlife including Special Status Species |
| Jennie Sperling | Botanist | Botany including Special Status Species |
| Dan Van Slyke | Fish Biologist | Fisheries, Special Status Species and EFH |
| Stephan Samuels | Archaeology | Cultural Resources |
| Paul Gammon | HazMat Coordinator | Hazardous Materials |
| Scott Knowles | Natural Resource Specialist | Port Orford cedar & Environmental Justice |

Conclusion: *(Note: If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)*

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 constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

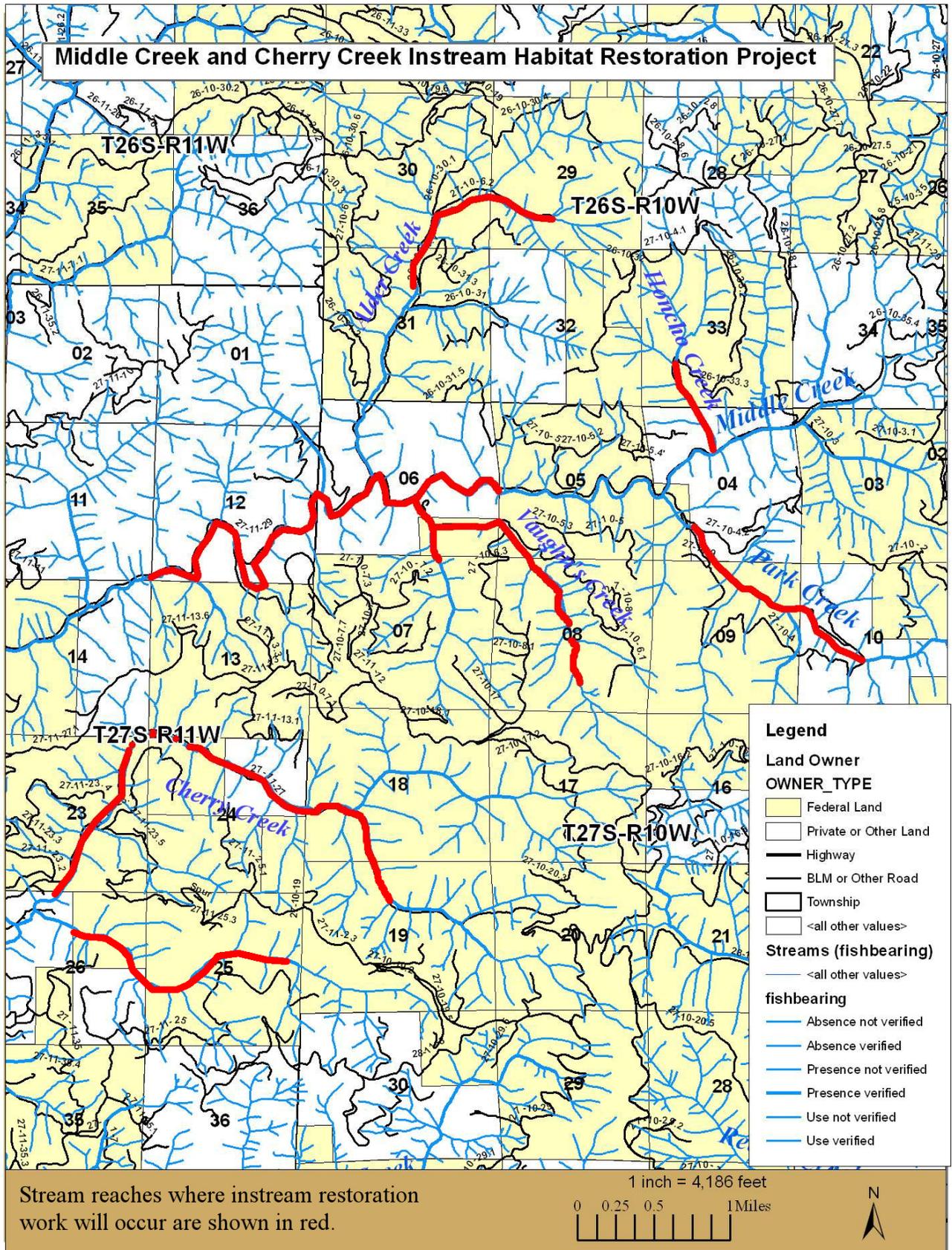
Signature of Project Lead: Dan R. VanSlyke

Signature of NEPA Coordinator: Steve Fowler

Signature of the Responsible Official: Dennis Turowski

Date: August 19, 2009

Middle Creek and Cherry Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Project



Middle Creek & Cherry Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Project –
Ownership Pattern and Project Reaches (shown in red)