



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Coos Bay District Office

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IN REPLY REFER TO

6740 (ORC040)

DOI-BLM-OR-CO30-2012-0001-EA

Coos Bay North Spit Wetlands Restoration Environmental Assessment

May 1, 2013

SCOPING DOCUMENT

Dear Citizen:

The USDI, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coos Bay District Office is preparing this Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to restore wetlands on the Coos Bay North Spit (CBNS) to a historically open water condition. This will help meet two of the management objectives identified in the Final North Spit Plan. Management objective number six from the plan is to “Conserve, enhance, or restore natural habitats, with emphasis on habitats that support special status plant and wildlife species.” Management objective number seven is to “Maintain wetland areas in a condition supportive of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.”

BLM currently manages 1,864 acres on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Seven hundred and twenty-five acres of the North Spit are classified as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the BLM. The Proposed Action would treat up to five general areas on approximately 61 acres. A total of approximately 26.7 acres within the ACEC land allocations are proposed for treatment. The Spit is also managed as a BLM Special Recreation Management Area.

The project proposes to modify portions of the currently vegetated wetlands on the North Spit. These areas were identified as open water wetland during review of the 1930’s aerial photos. Restoration efforts would occur in General Forest Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern land use allocations. The enclosed map shows the approximate locations that are being proposed for restoration. The purpose of the project is to restore open water areas suitable for waterfowl and shore bird habitats. Modification may be done using heavy equipment and/or explosives. Both of these methods will be considered in the EA.

You are invited to submit written comments regarding this project. Comments will be accepted until June 3, 2013. Comments which are helpful to the analysis process are those which identify new scientific or technical information, assist with determining the scope of issues to be addressed, and express site-specific concerns related to the Proposed Action. Opinions agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed project are not helpful in refining the Proposed Action, and will not be considered.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA document or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The EA interdisciplinary team will consider your comments in the development the Proposed Action and any action alternatives. The Proposed Action and any identified alternatives will then be analyzed and the results documented in an EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA is anticipated to be available for public review in October 2013. Once prepared, the EA will be posted on the District's web site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php> and the public will be notified of its availability for review.

Please direct your comments to Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, Oregon 97459, Attn: Steve Langenstein. Steve may also be reached by phone at (541) 756-4417, FAX: (541) 756-9303, or email at BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov, Attn: Steve Langenstein.

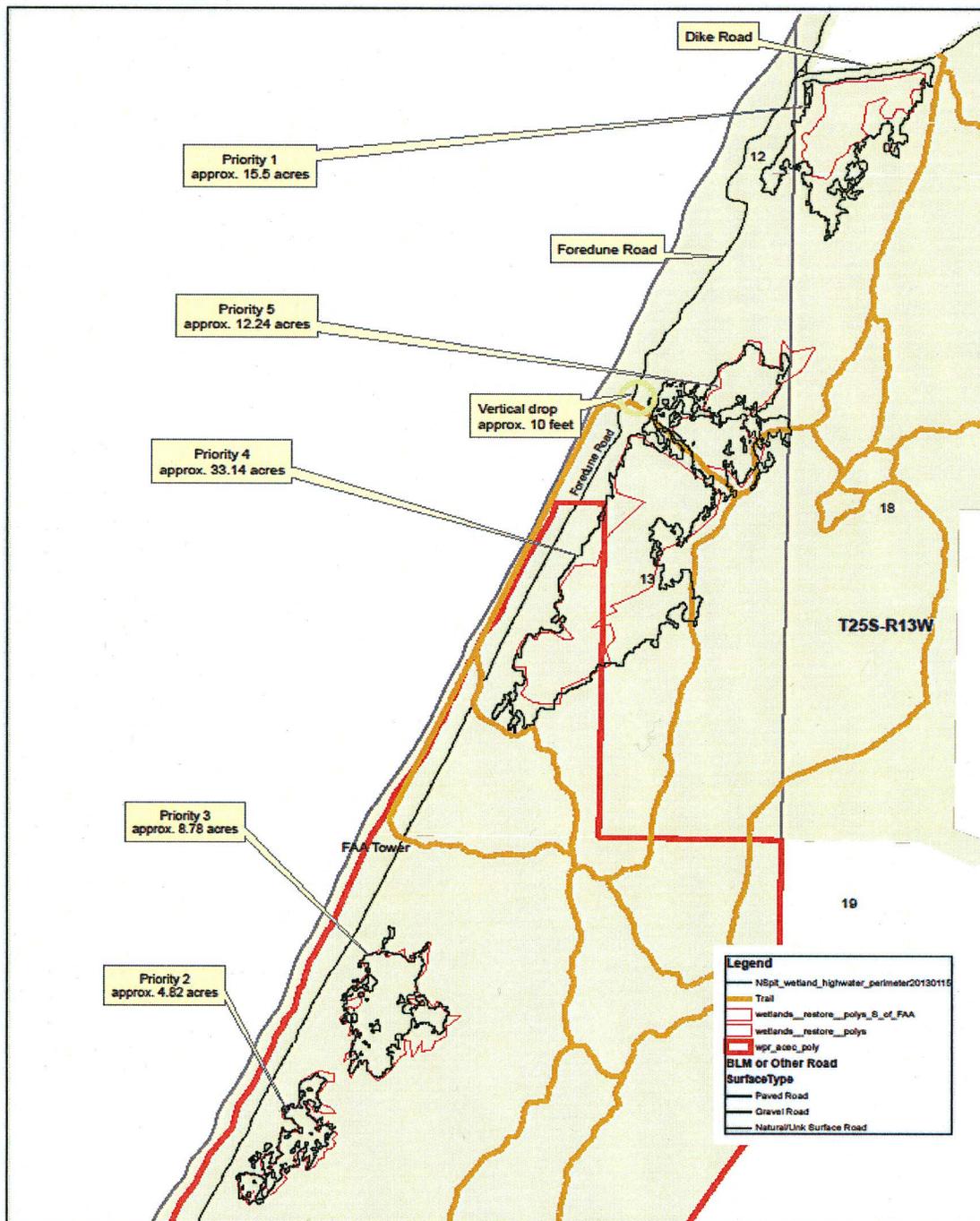
Respectfully,

/s/ A. Dennis Turowski

A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

Enclosure: Project Area Map

Attachment A



CBNS Wetlands Scoping Map
Scale = 1:9000



CBNS Wetlands Scoping Map
Scale = 1:9000