

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-C030-2009-0006-DNA

A. Description of the Proposed Action:

Proposed Action Title/Type: South Sisters and Jeff Creek Stream Enhancement Project; Phase IV

Location / Legal Description: Township 20 South, Range 08 West, Sections 16, 21 and 23
Latitude 10 0449 277 E, Longitude 48 51 689 N

Proposed Action: This project is part of the Smith River Watershed Council's ongoing plan to enhance/restore a total of 8.5 miles of South Sisters Creek and its tributaries on public and private lands. The proposed action is to place logs and boulders in South Sisters Creek and Jeff Creek to improve spawning and rearing habitat conditions in stream reaches inhabited by coho salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, brook lamprey and both sea-run and resident cutthroat trout. The present instream habitat consists of deeply incised channels with bedrock-dominated substrate. There is little habitat complexity, with an almost complete absence of accumulated woody debris, gravel deposits or instream cover.

The project will entail the placement of 40 log and boulder structures within South Sisters Creek and Jeff Creek. The structures will be comprised of 11 boulder structures with approximately 90 boulders per site, and 29 log structures averaging about 8 logs each within 1.5 miles of S.Sisters and Jeff Creeks. An excavator and possibly a cable system would be used to place logs from existing roads. Through time, the logs and boulders will retain fine and coarse substrates which will provide stable spawning habitat for salmonids, as well as fine substrates necessary for the survival of lamprey adults and ammocoetes.

All key logs will be at least two times the active channel width of the stream within which they are placed, with an 18 inch minimum diameter at the small end and will be keyed into existing riparian trees. All boulders will average 1.5 cubic yards with a 1.0 cubic yard minimum and will comply with ODFW fish passage and boulder placement guidelines.

Work will be carried out in accordance with the Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide, the ODF Guide for the Placement of Wood in Streams, ODFW and BLM technical specifications, as well as Slopes IV Best Management Practices for Operating Equipment Near a Small Stream.

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 South Sister Creek/Jeff Creek 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).

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 Tye Sandstone formation which is susceptible to mass movement, rapid erosion, flash flooding, and landslides.

The proposed project would encompass considerably less stream miles than the Paradise Creek project (1.5 miles as opposed to approximately 12 miles in the Paradise Creek action area). The same or similar type of land-based equipment would also be used to place structures (no helicopter placements are proposed). The project would also 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.

The acquisition/sources of logs and boulders are substantially the same because they would originate from several sources such as donations from private timber companies 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 Smith River Watershed Association and Roseburg Resources Incorporated. Like the Paradise Creek project, the Douglas 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

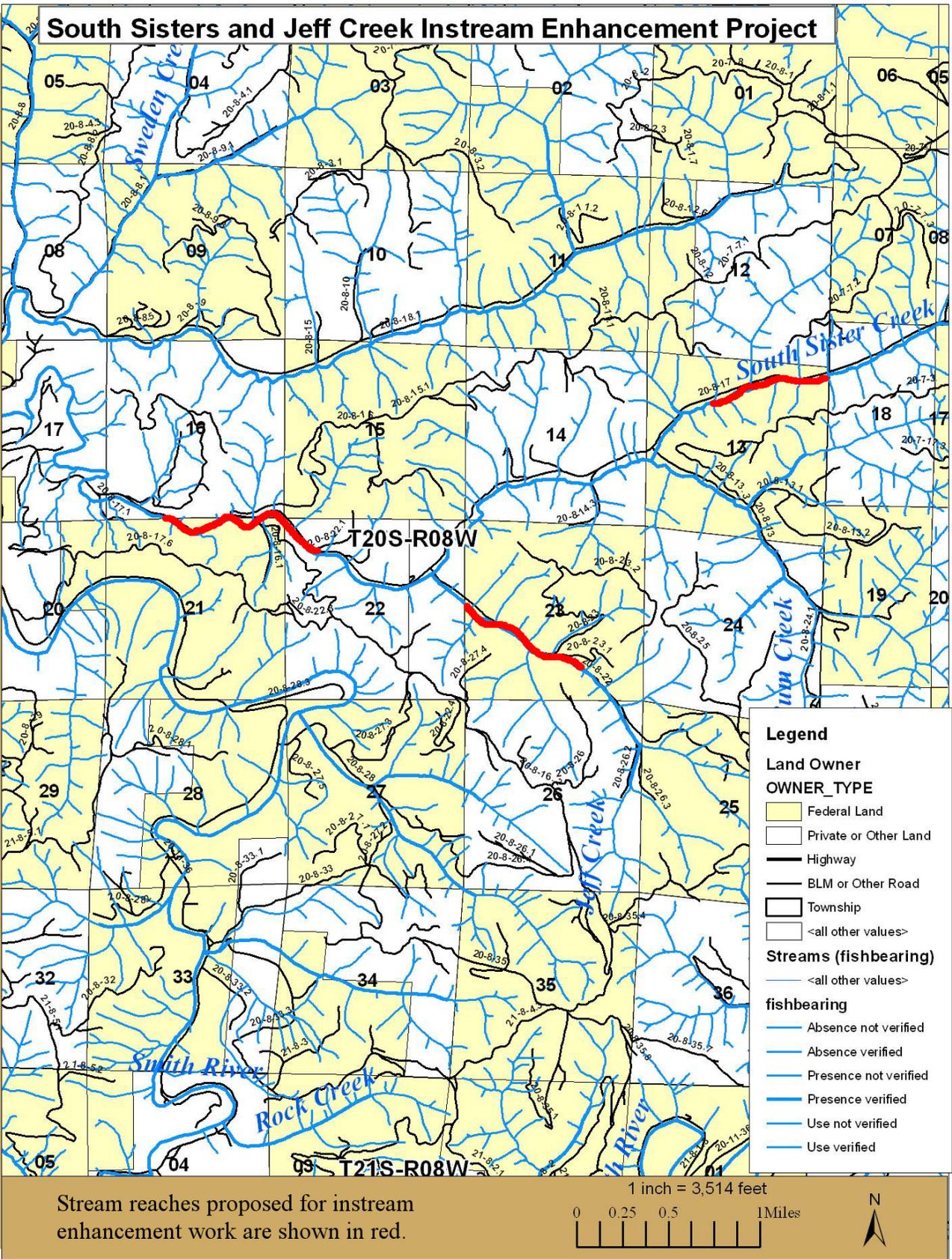
Conclusion:

Signature of Project Lead: Dan R. VanSlyke

Signature of NEPA Coordinator: Steve Fowler

Signature of the Responsible Official: Dennis Turowski

Date: August 18, 2009



South Sisters Creek/Jeff Creek Instream Enhancement Project Locations and Ownership Pattern