

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION RECORD  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW  
Western Pond Turtle Project  
CE-08-18

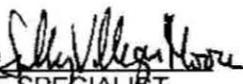
Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to work cooperatively with the West Eugene Wetland Partners to install; (1). Approximately 8 basking platforms in the Amazon Creek, and (2). Approximately 6 protective wire enclosures over potential western pond turtle nests. The WPT is listed as a Bureau Sensitive species under the BLM Special Status Species List. The purpose for the basking structures is two fold, one purpose is to monitor remnant western pond turtles (WPTs), and the second is to increase one of their required habitat components. The small protective wire enclosures will aid in excluding non native predators (i.e. raccoons, skunks, opossums) from nesting habitat and assess if turtles are still reproducing. Enclosures will be monitored to closely. All 8 basking structures shall be removed from the Amazon Creek & A-1 channel before the fall rain season commences annually.

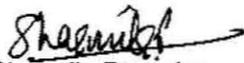
Background

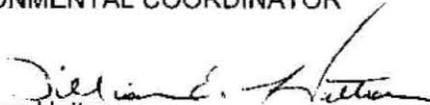
The WEW is an area on the west side of Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. There have been casual observations in 2007 and one exploratory survey (Bhutabatti) that indicate the Western Pond Turtles are still present in the WEW and was probably abundant in the streams and side-channel ponds of the southern Willamette Valley before European settlement. This population of turtles inhabiting the Willamette is estimated at 1% of the numbers that existed 150 years ago. In recent efforts the WEW partners were successful in managing nesting habitat at Delta ponds in which several western pond turtle hatchlings were found in 2008. Guidance directs the BLM to manage for and maintain habitats across the landscape. This special status species can benefit from the maintenance and improvements of habitat conditions found in the in the West Eugene Wetlands.

Decision: The proposed action, as described above, is approved to be implemented.

Rationale: The proposed action meets the criteria for the categorical exclusion in 516 DM 11.5A (3), which allows for the construction of perches, nesting platforms, islands and similar structures for wildlife use. None of the "extraordinary circumstances" in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Further, the action is in conformance with the Eugene District RMP, as amended; and the West Eugene Wetland Plan (1992, 2000).

Prepared By: /s/ Sally Villegas Moore  Date: 6/2/2008  
NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Reviewed By: /s/ Sharmila Premdas  Date: 5/29/2008  
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

Approved By: /s/ William E. Hatton  Date: 6/2/2008  
FIELD MANAGER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW  
Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist

Proposed Action: See preceding page.

Review the proposed action against each of the 12 "extraordinary circumstances" listed below. Any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances, in which case, further analysis and environmental documents must be prepared for the action. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

	<u>Extraordinary Circumstances</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1.	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety	None
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	None
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA, Sec. 102(2)(E)]	None
4.	Have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	None
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7.	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	None
8.	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	None
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).	No
11.	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007).	No
12.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112).	No

Mitigation measures: None