

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

**WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PROJECT
STEWART-BERTELSEN MANAGEMENT UNIT**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT No. ORO90-95-06

I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The West Eugene Wetlands (WEW) Project is a cooperative venture by the Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to protect and restore historic wetland ecosystems in the southern Willamette Valley of Oregon. This unique project involves federal, state and local agencies and organizations in partnership to manage lands and resources in an urban area for multiple public benefits. Major partners in the WEW Project include the BLM, City of Eugene, The Nature Conservancy, and Lane Council of Governments. BLM became an active partner in 1993 when they adopted the local WEW Plan (WEWP) (City of Eugene 1992). To date the BLM has been primarily involved in land acquisition, with current ownership at approximately 600 acres.

A variety of management activities for the WEW project area are recommended in the WEWP. In addition, The Nature Conservancy (1993) prepared an assessment of wetland mitigation areas in West Eugene. In 1994 the BLM began limited management actions on various properties that included planning, research on special status species, prescribed burning, environmental education, trash removal, and noxious weed control. Similar activities have occurred or are planned on public lands under ownership by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the City of Eugene. Public use of federal land within the WEW Project is currently allowed under the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 8365.1-6.) There is a need to coordinate these management actions and other planned activities within specific area boundaries. The Stewart-Bertelsen area is a block of public land that is a logical unit to plan management actions.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the WEWP (1992). The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of implementing a variety of land management actions on BLM ownership within the Stewart-Bertelsen Management Unit (SBMU), located in Township 17 S., Range 4 W, Section 34 (Appendix A). It is anticipated that these land management activities will be carried out over a 5 year period, at which time management of this unit would be re-evaluated. These activities may include wetland creation and restoration, upland habitat restoration, control of undesirable non-native plant species, special status species management, wildlife habitat improvements, and public use. Activities occurring within the SBMU boundary on other ownerships are addressed solely in the context as how that action will relate to the proposed BLM activities.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action (Alternative A)

The Proposed Action would implement a variety of land management activities on the SBMU with an

emphasis on habitat diversity and complexity, and integrating this with managed public use. It would provide a moderate amount of wetland mitigation opportunities, primarily enhancement of existing conditions. The associated uplands would be managed to compliment the wetland systems in addition to providing areas for restoration of native plant communities, particularly oak savannah. Measures necessary to comply with City of Eugene ordinances regarding vegetation adjacent to public roads would be implemented. Cleanup and removal of trash would occur on a periodic basis as necessary. Parts of this Proposed Action were adopted from an analysis of the Bertelsen Slough-Stewart Pond Area proposed mitigation sites completed by The Nature Conservancy (1993). The following are general descriptions of activities that are considered in the Proposed Action.

1. Wetland Creation, Restoration, and Enhancement

Beltline Mitigation Site. The easterly 300' of this site is owned by the BLM and will be incorporated into the ODOT wetland mitigation plan covering both ownerships. Proposals for the BLM portion of this site include filling several east-west drain ditches; excavation of vernal pools and one emergent pond; tillage of non-native plant communities and reseeding with native species; and planting of black cottonwood, Oregon white oak, and California black oak along the edges. ODOT will retain wetland mitigation "credits" for the work done on BLM land, as well as short-term responsibility for site monitoring and maintenance.

Stewart Pond. This seasonal wetland would be expanded by approximately 1-2 acres by the excavation of 6" to 1' of surface soil along the north edge. A 1-2 foot berm would be placed along the overflow area adjacent to No-Name Pond to increase the depth and duration of surface water held on-site and disperse water westerly to the Beltline Mitigation Site. A water control structure would be placed in the berm to allow manipulation of water levels as necessary. Within Stewart Pond itself, 50-75% of the reed canarygrass would be mechanically removed. Most spoils would be spread and contoured on the adjacent uplands or hauled to a fill site. Two small islands would be positioned within the pond to enhance habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. Minimal seeding or planting of wetland species is planned, as it is anticipated the site will naturally revegetate with onsite species such as pennyroyal and spikerush. If unforeseen conditions allow reed canarygrass to dominate the newly developed area, mechanical tilling and re-seeding will be used to change the species composition. This work would be cost-shared with the City of Eugene, and they would retain the wetland mitigation "credits" for the site.

South Stewart Pond. No physical changes to this seasonal emergent wetland are planned under the current ownership pattern. Concentrations of reed canarygrass may be removed if they are judged to be threatening the existence of the existing native emergent wetland species or wetland prairie species. Blackberries will be controlled where it encroaches on the wetlands or on to adjacent private property. If additional lands are acquired between the Amazon Creek and South Stewart Pond, this area would be developed as a seasonal wetland with native riparian vegetation, and would serve as a habitat corridor linking the main Amazon Creek channel with the SBMU.

No-Name Pond/No-Name Slough. Enhancements for No-Name Pond would include benching and decreasing the edge slopes with grading and importation of wetland soils, which would improve conditions for emergent plant species. Plantings would be considered following water level monitoring. Some of the concentrations of reed canarygrass in No-Name Slough would be mechanically removed. The old culvert draining the slough into the A-3 channel would be replaced with a water control structure that would allow water level manipulation in the slough and pond. A low water channel would be excavated between the slough and the pond to allow surface water exchange. The south edges of the slough would be planted with Oregon ash, black cottonwood, and oak to establish a

narrow but contiguous riparian forested corridor between Bertelsen Slough and Eastern Gateway. The upper end of No-Name slough, presently dominated by riparian woodland and shrubs, would be maintained. However, there are some low lying benches below Stewart Knoll where the riparian woodland could be expanded by 20-50ft. Lowhead berms filling portions of the channel that bisects the upper slough area may be used to both disperse and extend retention of water across the floodplain.

Eastern Gateway. A site plan was prepared for this area when the restoration work was conducted in 1993. Wetland mitigation "credits" were retained by the City of Eugene and they are presently conducting monitoring activities. Maintenance of this site would be similar to other wetland restoration sites, such as removal of garbage and debris, mowing of undesirable vegetation, hand removal of reed canarygrass seedlings and tree seedlings, additional plantings, and similar actions. The site plan can be referenced for further details.

2. Restoration of Uplands.

Control of Noxious Weeds and Non-native Plants. Measures taken to control undesirable vegetation may include mowing(multiple times if necessary), tilling, mechanical removal, hand removal of sprouts or seed heads, propane burning, and prescribed burning. It is anticipated that within 3 years much of this program will be reduced to occasional maintenance as seed sources are removed and native species are established. Blackberries would be virtually eliminated in some areas and simply controlled in others, depending upon site-specific objectives. These objectives include providing food and cover for a variety of wildlife, including many birds and small mammals. Blackberries would be retained in places where it would be easy to prevent their expansion. Teasel and thistle sp. would be cut to avoid seed head maturity. Scotch broom will be pulled or cut in the late summer to prevent further expansion into the area. Prescribed burning would be used on a limited basis when necessary to stimulate native plant species, and not solely to reduce fuel loading or unwanted vegetation. Propane burning (single burner by hand) would be used if found effective on sprouting blackberries. All burning would be conducted in accordance with City of Eugene burning ordinances. Foam may be used when prescribed burning is conducted to help with control lines and avoid unnecessary ground disturbance. Vegetation control activities would occur from spring through fall, depending on the optimum window for each species, the specific botanical recommendations relative to the surrounding plant community, and potential impacts to wildlife. The BLM would implement measures necessary to comply with City of Eugene ordinances regarding vegetation adjacent to public roads. The use of herbicides is not being considered as part of this proposed action.

Oak savannah/upland prairie. Stewart Knoll and adjacent uplands would be managed for this habitat type. Planting of upland forbs and grasses would be delayed until full control over non-native species was attained and an appropriate seed source was available. Black and white oak seedlings could be planted as soon as an appropriate stock was available. All naturally occurring oak seedlings will be protected. Upland prairie species would include those necessary to support Fender's blue butterfly (see Special Status Species). An additional small site with young oak savannah habitat north of the riparian woodland and slough would be maintained in its present condition.

Additional Upland Sites. Two sites are classified as disturbed, a result of fill material distributed across the area (see Appendix A). Short term management of both sites would consist of selective mowing to control non-native vegetation. The area on the east side of Bertelsen Slough will remain in its present condition to allow the future option of creating wetlands to be used for stormwater retention and treatment.

The other site, located off the east end of 5th St. and on the north side of the riparian woodland portion of No-Name Slough, would have an expansion of the riparian woodland that would include fill removal and importation of wetland type soil as necessary. Soil could be imported from the Stewart Pond expansion area. The area would be planted with Oregon ash, willow, and other riparian species. A drainage ditch along the west side of this area would be partially filled to help create riparian habitat. The lowhead berms proposed for the channel in the riparian woodland would help extend water across the floodplain into this ditch. The remainder of the site would be a transition between the riparian woodland and oak uplands, connecting with the existing oak savannah on the east end. The proposed trail and boardwalk would traverse this area to connect to 5th St. The City of Eugene has future plans to connect 5th St. along the south bank of the A-3 channel. All management actions would consider the right-of-way for this proposed roadway extension.

3. Special Status Species.

No federally listed species will be affected by this Proposed Action. However, the Western pond turtle, a federal candidate species, is known to inhabit No-Name pond and vicinity. There has been unsuccessful nesting recorded on the uplands adjacent to the pond. The Proposed Action includes a number of enhancements designed to benefit pond turtles, including the introduction of basking logs to No-Name Pond and vicinity, promotion of emergent vegetation for juvenile habitat, maintenance of adjacent areas as preferred nesting habitat, and establishment of a low water connection between the pond and slough to facilitate safe movement. The BLM would request technical assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding these proposed actions. Although it is outside the scope of this EA, the ODOT work on the Beltline Mitigation Site will include similar enhancements for pond turtles.

The upland site around Stewart Knoll has been considered as a possible recovery area for the Fender's blue butterfly, also a federal candidate species. Establishment of a healthy upland prairie community is necessary before further steps towards recovery would be taken, such as larvae transplants. A cooperative study with the University of Washington is currently in progress and will refine the timelines for further action. Noxious weed control and native prairie restoration as detailed in the Proposed Action will further the recovery goals for Fender's blue butterfly. Prior to reestablishment attempts the BLM would seek technical assistance from the USFWS.

4. General Wildlife Habitat Enhancements

Nest structures would be used to improve nesting habitat for a variety of birds, including wood ducks, purple martins, swallows, kestrels, western bluebirds, nuthatches, and osprey. These structures would be used in both wetland and upland habitats. In addition, perching sites for raptors and roosting boxes for bats would also be used to improve habitat use by those species. Existing wooden fence posts will be retained as perch sites for birds. Den sites for red fox may be created by using materials such as old concrete culverts and placing them at locations distant from public use sites. Brush and rock piles may be used at various locations to improve habitat for wildlife including reptiles.

5. Public Use

Public use is an important feature of this Proposed Action. This area, due to its high resource values and proximity to urban development, lends itself well to public use for the Stewart Road residential neighborhood, adjacent commercial businesses, and local schools. This proposal would direct public use to certain areas with a walking trail that includes a boardwalk through the riparian woodland, a viewing platform overlooking Stewart Pond, and assorted interpretive signs. The platform would be

accessed by a small gravel parking area off Stewart Road. The site would be designated a BLM "Watchable Wildlife" site. The proposed walking trail would loop around Stewart Knoll and extend east to connect with the Eastern Gateway Restoration Site. Another small platform may be constructed at the end of the gravel path leading into Eastern Gateway. The boardwalk would allow a connection across the floodplain to 5th Ave. Motorized vehicles will not be permitted within the unit except for administrative purposes. The location of proposed public use features are shown in Appendix B.

B. Alternative B.

This alternative would be a modified version of the Proposed Action, however the emphasis would be on the restoration of plant communities and wetland morphology back to its pre-settlement character as much as possible. This alternative would focus on wetland prairie habitat, riparian woodland, oak savannah, removal of non-native species, and limited public access. The BLM would implement measures necessary to comply with City of Eugene ordinances regarding vegetation adjacent to public roads. Parts of this alternative were adopted from an analysis of the Bertelsen Slough-Stewart Pond Area proposed mitigation sites completed by The Nature Conservancy (1993). The following are general descriptions of activities considered in Alternative B where they differ significantly from the Proposed Action:

Stewart Pond. This wetland would be restored to its original condition of wetland prairie and vernal pools. Water depth would not be increased and actually may decrease as water disperses across the Martinson site with the removal of the ditch and hedgerow that divides the two areas on the west side of the pond. Mechanical treatments including tillage would be used to control reed canarygrass and the site would be seeded with wet prairie species. Periodic prescribed fire would be used after establishment of the wetland prairie. Re-contouring and excavation of the area will be minimal.

No-Name Pond/No-Name Slough. The emphasis for these sites would change to improve conditions for re-establishment of a wide riparian woodland. Ash would be planted in the emergent zones and black cottonwood and oak would be used on the edges. Water manipulation would be used to facilitate establishment and growth of these riparian woody species. The channel in the upper end of the slough would be filled and regraded to natural contours.

Control of Noxious Weeds. Actions would be similar to the Proposed action except efforts would be more intensive and would attempt to eliminate non-native vegetation for the area. This would include removal of the non-native cherry and apple trees and seedlings.

Public Use. In general, public use of the area would be concentrated around the perimeter. Public access to the interior portions would not be encouraged with the exception of use of the site by local schools for environmental educational purposes. No new trails including boardwalks are planned. The gravel path leading into the Eastern Gateway Site would be maintained. The alterations of Stewart Pond would likely reduce the opportunities for wildlife viewing, so no observation platform would be constructed. However, an observation platform may be constructed along the path into the Eastern Gateway Site.

C. Alternative C (No Action Alternative)

This alternative would limit management activities on the SBMU to minor habitat improvements and control of noxious vegetation. The BLM would implement measures necessary to comply with City of Eugene ordinances regarding vegetation adjacent to public roads. Control of noxious vegetation, primarily blackberries, would be done with periodic mowing or hand removal. There would be no

alterations of wetland sites and plans to restore the upland prairie and oak savannah would be delayed. Management of the Eastern Gateway Site would continue under the 1993 site plan. Some general wildlife habitat enhancements, such as nest structures for birds, could be implemented. Public use of federal land within the WEW Project would continue as currently allowed under the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 8365.1-6.)

III AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Existing Conditions

Beltline Mitigation Site. The portion of this parcel in BLM ownership is former agricultural land and had been grazed up until two years ago. The vegetation consists primarily of non-native grasses, with a shrub hedgerow along the east side. The southern portion is former wetland and still retains surface water during the winter. The northern end is somewhat higher in elevation and has upland characteristics dominated by blackberries. The western portion of this parcel is owned by Oregon Department of Transportation and has similar vegetation, including non-native grasses and blackberries.

Stewart Pond. This is an emergent seasonal wetland that covers about eight acres. It is flooded with 2-12" of water for about 5-6 months, usually from late November to late spring. The dominant wetland plants are pennyroyal, common spikerush, and reed canarygrass. It is fed primarily by surface runoff, with overflows going north into No-Name Pond. There is a shrub hedge and shallow ditch along the west side adjacent to the Beltline Mitigation Site. Stewart Road forms the southern boundary. This area is the most popular wildlife viewing location of the SBMU because of the waterbird use throughout the winter and spring and easy access for vehicles along Stewart Road.

South Stewart Pond. This is an emergent seasonal wetland approximately two acres in size across Stewart Road from Stewart Pond. It has a small area of ash woodland, some large cottonwoods, open water with emergent plants, and wetland prairie that extends south on private land. It is surrounded by commercial businesses on two sides and a vacant lot to the west. It is fed by surface water and is not connected to Stewart Pond, as Stewart Road acts as a barrier. Excess water drains south towards the Amazon Creek.

No-Name Pond. This wetland is a permanent open body of water that is maintained by groundwater infiltration as well as surface flows. It may be as deep as 10' at high water but recedes significantly by late summer. It was created by gravel excavation some years ago. The edges have willow, ash, and mature cottonwood trees. The large cottonwoods provide a number of snags for woodpeckers and cavity nesting birds, as well as perch sites for various raptors. The pond area has few emergents, probably due to the lack of suitable soil and steep banks. Some submergents are present in the permanent water zone. The pond has supported a breeding population of western pond turtles.

No-Name Slough. The western portion of the slough is open emergent vegetation, primarily sedge, rush, and reed canarygrass. Ash and shrubs are present around the edges. A small open water area exists on the north side, but it generally dries up as does the rest of the slough. The slough is fed by both ground water and surface runoff. Excess water drains into the A-3 channel at Bertelsen Slough through an old culvert. The upper portion of the slough is riparian woodland, dominated by ash. It has a channel traversing through the center as well as some open emergent habitat near Baily Hill Road. Ash is the predominant tree within this wooded area.

Eastern Gateway. This 17 acre tract is located east of Baily Hill between W.5th and W.7th Place. It

forms the eastern edge of the SBMU. It has young ash woodland, sedge, and approximately 7 acres of wetlands that was restored in 1993 as mitigation. The restoration project included excavation of fill material, grading, and planting with native species, including wet prairie. Presently the site is seasonally flooded from November into May. A deeper open water portion exists in the center of the tract. A gravel pathway leads out to this pond along the edge of the restored wetlands. Blackberries are prevalent along the roadside uplands.

Stewart Knoll. This site includes all uplands from Stewart Pond east to an excavated vacant commercial lot at the property line. Stewart Road forms the southern edge and the riparian woodland is on the north side. The lower slopes have non-native grass and thistle with scattered blackberry clumps. Old building foundations are present between the pond and a private residence, and much of the area is covered with blackberries. The upper portion of Stewart Knoll has scattered large black oak and white oak, with some estimated at 300-500 years old. A few black oak seedlings are present, as are thickets of cherry trees, big-leaf maples, and other shrubs. Much of the blackberries that dominated the site have been removed or mowed, however they are still common across the knoll.

Additional Upland Sites. Two sites in the SBMU are described as uplands as a result of fill material and other disturbance. One site is located near the A-3 channel near the end of 5th Street. This site was mowed in 1994, but is still dominated by non-native plant species. The amount of fill on the site is unknown. The other site is off the east end of Bertelsen Slough and north of the A-3. This area is dominated by teasel and blackberries.

B. Impacts of the Proposed Action

Irreversible and Irretrievable Resources: There are no irreversible or irretrievable resources affected by the Proposed Action.

Cumulative Effects: This proposal is not expected to result in negative cumulative effects such as sedimentation. However, this action may result in an increase in public use of the SBMU. It is also anticipated that the habitat changes proposed will result in an increase in the wetland acreage of the SBMU and local population increases for some wildlife species.

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources are expected to be affected by this Proposed Action.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The Proposed Action is considered to be "No Effect" on Federally listed (or proposed for listing) plant and animal species. However, changes in habitat within the SBMU are anticipated to result in long term habitat improvements for two federal candidate species, the Western pond turtle and Fender's blue butterfly.

Vegetation: Some vegetation is expected to be significantly altered by the Proposed Action, however it is not anticipated to adversely influence desirable plant communities. In general, the control of blackberries and other non-native species would result in a more open condition dominated by grasses and forbs. Over time, as oak and riparian woodland species mature, portions of the area would have forest and open savannah conditions. Areas to be restored or altered to wetland conditions would change to wetland species, primarily emergents, wet prairie, or shrubs. The removal of reed canarygrass may reduce that species dominance of those sites in the short term, but the long term outlook is unknown. Changes in water depth will result in changes to those wetland species that tolerate those inundation zones.

Soils: The Proposed Action would result in significant changes to soil resources across the area. The

largest alterations would be the removal of imported fill material on two sites that currently have upland characteristics. This removal would result in the exposure of native surface soil, primarily with hydric characteristics, and changes from an upland to a wetland type condition. In some areas such as Stewart Pond and Beltline Mitigation Site, a limited amount of topsoil would be removed and recontoured, but this is not expected to have negative impacts on hydric characteristics, water retention ability, or the ability to grow wetland vegetation. The importing of wetland type soils to sites such as No-Name Pond would be a replacement for the native wetland soils that were removed years ago when the pond was excavated. Work with heavy equipment would occur during periods of low soil moisture, primarily during the summer and early fall. This is not anticipated to result in significant soil compaction.

Wetlands/Water Quality: A number of existing wetlands would be altered under the Proposed Action, which requires permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon Division of State Lands to comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and other regulations. No alterations of the wetland sites would occur prior to permit approval. There are no anticipated long term impacts to water quality from the Proposed Action. There may be some short term increases in sedimentation, but most of the water is sedentary rather than flowing, which reduces the potential for erosion. Most areas should be vegetated within 1-2 years of disturbance. Although wetlands can function to naturally filter out excess nutrients and pollution, this would not be a planned function for the existing wetlands in the SBMU. The water collected in this area (with the exception of the A-3 channel on City of Eugene property) has a low potential for concentrations of polluting substances. If foam is used to aid in prescribed burning, it will not be dispensed into standing or flowing water.

Hazardous Materials: The operation of heavy equipment as necessary to implement the Proposed Action would take place during the summer and early fall when the seasonal wetlands are dry, so the chance of diesel fuel or hydraulic fluid spills into water during the operation of heavy equipment is minimal. Spill containment kits would be available in the event of a spill, and removal, transport, and disposal would be done in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality laws and regulations. The foam used to aid in prescribed burning is not considered a hazardous material.

Air Quality: The Proposed Action would not exceed the DEQ ambient air pollution standards. All burning would be done in compliance with the City of Eugene open burning regulations and with Eastern Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority. Air pollution impacts would be short-term and minimal.

C. Impacts of Alternative B

Implementation of Alternative B would have impacts similar to the Proposed Action for most of the proposed activities. Changes in the vegetative cover would be the most noticeable difference. Blackberries, once a dominant feature of the SBMU, would be eliminated as much as possible. No-Name Pond and No-Name Slough would gradually become a contiguous and closed canopy riparian woodland connecting Eastern Gateway with Bertelsen Slough. Wetland prairie would replace the emergent wetland species that now dominate Stewart Pond. This is anticipated to reduce waterbird use of the pond, particularly waterfowl. There may be increased use of the expanded riparian woodland by passerine birds as the trees mature. In general, public use is anticipated to increase slowly. Although there would not be an established trail or observation area near Stewart Pond, the presence of this large open space in an urban setting would still attract the public for passive recreation. Restrictions on public access may be necessary in some areas in the future where it is not compatible with restoration goals. Use of the area for environmental educational purposes by local schools would be similar to

Alternative A. The types of public use allowed on the SBMU would remain as listed under the current Code of Federal Regulations.

D. Impacts of Alternative C (No-Action)

The present status of the SBMU would remain largely unchanged except for certain plant communities. Although some measures to control blackberries would be implemented, they would still dominate much of the uplands. No restoration of wetland or upland sites would be undertaken. Reed canarygrass would continue to increase in shallow wetland areas, particularly Stewart Pond, to the extent it may dominate the emergent zone and significantly reduce open water. There would be no habitat restoration to assist with the recovery of two federal candidate species, the Western Pond turtle and the Fender's blue butterfly. The mature black cottonwood trees around No-Name Pond would gradually die, and with no young trees present as replacements the species may completely disappear from the site. Much of the area would remain in open space but would be dominated with non-native species. The riparian woodland along the upper end of No-Name Slough would remain largely unchanged. There would be no short-term impacts to air quality from prescribed burning.

IV. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Specialists contacted for review, consultation, and coordination included:

John Applegarth	BLM Wildlife Biologist
Greg Miller	BLM Wildlife Biologist
Dan Crannell	BLM Wildlife Biologist (T&E)
Nancy Wogen	BLM Natural Resource Specialist(Botany)
Alan Schloss	BLM Hydrologist
Barry Williams	BLM Soil Scientist
Phil Dills	BLM Fire/Fuels Specialist
Saundra Miles	BLM Recreation Planner
Mike Southard	BLM Archeologist
Ed Alverson	Preserve Steward, TNC
Deborah Evans	Water Resources, City of Eugene
Dal Ollek	Water Resources, City of Eugene
Steve Gordon	Senior Planner, LCOG
Bill Castillo	Wildlife Biologist, ODFW

Prepared By: Jonathan T. Beall Date: 4/21/95
Project Manager

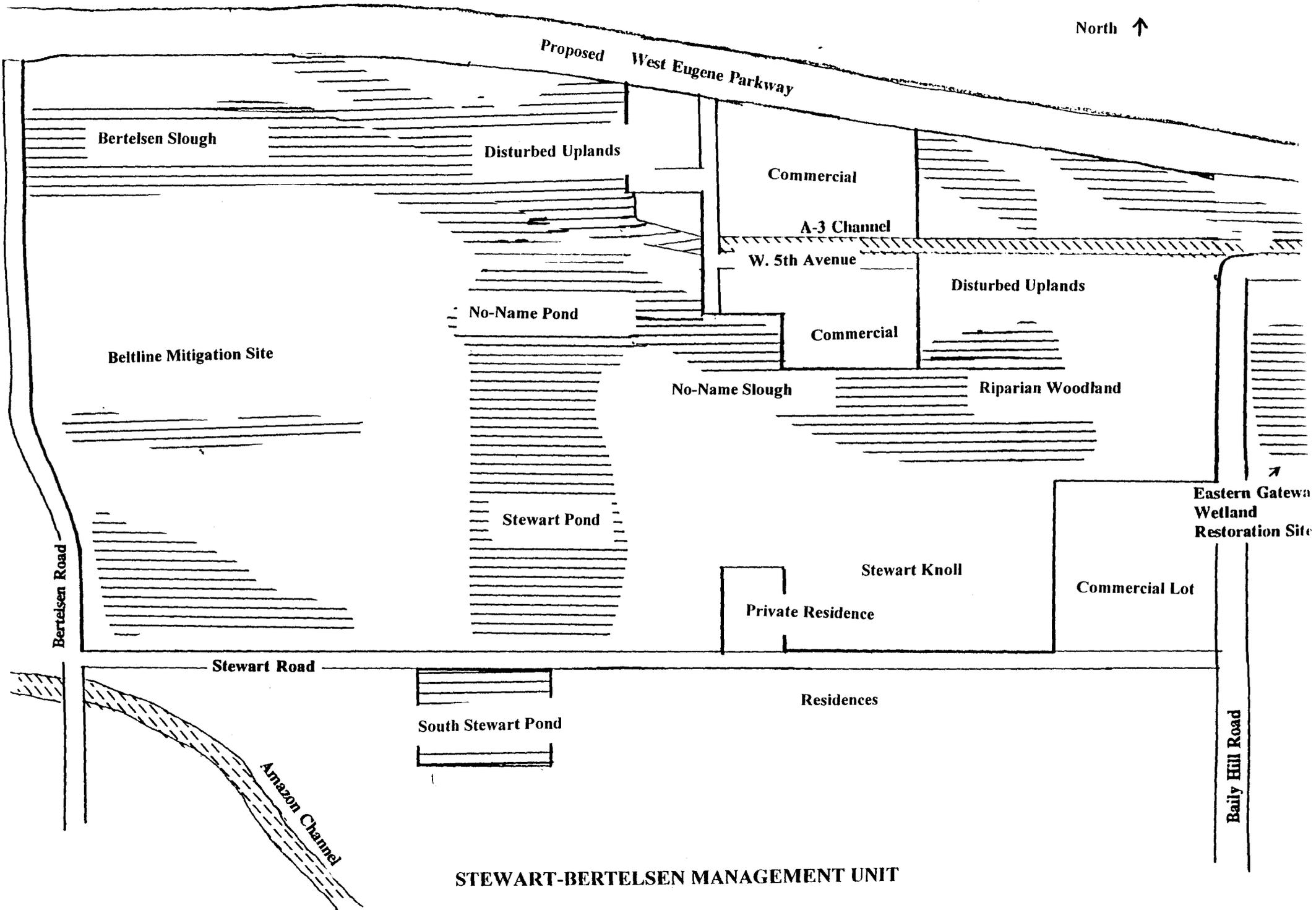
Reviewed By: Don Williams Date: 4/21/95
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 4/21/95
Coast Range Resource Area Manager

Attachments:

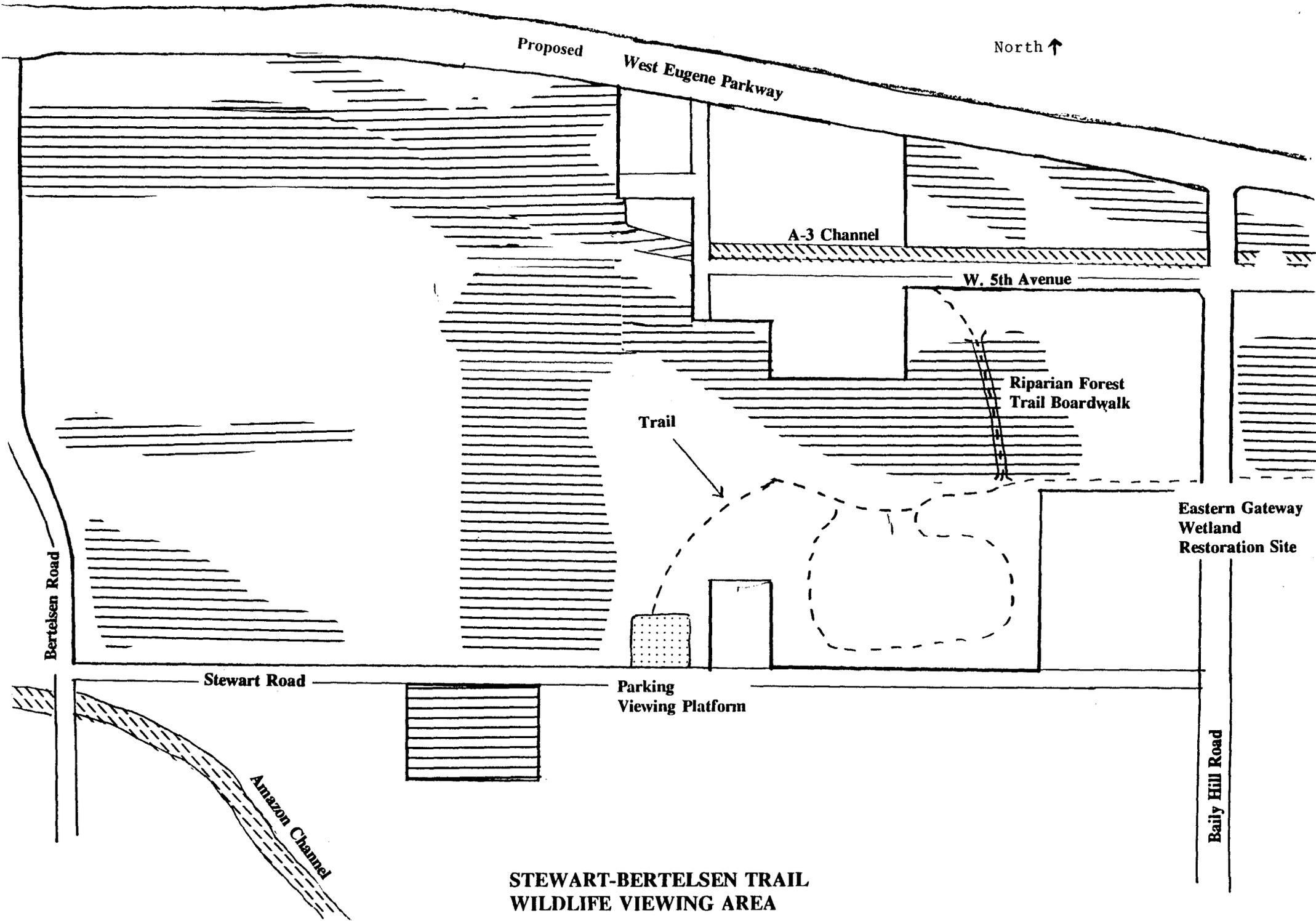
- Appendix A- Vicinity Map
- Appendix B- Public Use Features

North ↑



STEWART-BERTELSEN MANAGEMENT UNIT

North ↑



**STEWART-BERTELSEN TRAIL
WILDLIFE VIEWING AREA**

1792A
EA-95-06

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment No. OR090-95-06

The Bureau of Land Management Eugene District has analyzed a proposal to conduct management activities within the Stewart-Bertelsen Management Unit of the West Eugene Wetlands Project.

The proposal, associated design features, and potential mitigation measures are described in the attached Environmental Assessment No. OR090-95-06.

The proposed action would comply with the goals and recommended actions found in the West Eugene Wetlands Plan (1992). It is also in accord with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Determination:

On the basis of the information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is my determination that completion of the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement or supplement to the existing West Eugene Wetlands Plan is not necessary and will not be prepared.



Area Manager
Coast Range Resource Area

Date: 4/21/95

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District Office

DECISION RECORD

Environmental Assessment No. OROR90-95-06

Proposed Action: My decision is to proceed with the land management activities described in the Proposed Action (Alternative A) of the Stewart-Bertelsen Management Unit Environmental Assessment.

Rationale

It is my decision to implement this project because it will result in the enhancement and restoration of wetlands and oak-savannah uplands; control of non-native plant species; habitat improvements for a variety of wildlife species; and environmental education opportunities. Two letters of comment were received. One letter supported Alternative A (Proposed Action) and the other supported the project in general.

Alternative B was not selected because of the limited opportunity for public use. The No-Action Alternative (Alternative C) was not selected because it provided no opportunities for wetland restoration and enhancement.

Right to Appeal

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (pursuant to regulations 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4.21 (58 Federal Register 4939, January 19, 1993)(request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards list below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in the decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4.43) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's succession on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted and,
- (3) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Approved by:



Coast Range Resource Area Manager

Date: 5/31/95

Enclosure:

Form 1832-1