

United States
Department Of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Background The Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has entered into a unique partnership with the City of Eugene, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conserve, mitigate, and restore wetlands within the Eugene urban growth boundary. This project has been labeled the "West Eugene Wetlands Project".

To date the BLM has been in the land acquisition phase of this project and may ultimately be responsible for the management of greater than 3,000 acres within the West Eugene Wetlands Project area. Many land parcels will receive mitigation treatments that will count toward credits against wetland development. Wetland mitigation includes creation, restoration and enhancement of wetlands. One of the main objectives of wetland mitigation projects will be to create or improve the native plant species' composition within project areas and begin development of functional wetlands. Seed collection is an integral part of this management and mitigation program.

Proposed Action The proposed action is to collect seed from native species (particularly from dominant and/or most available herbs and graminoids) in and around the West Eugene Wetlands Project Area. The seeds from these collections will be used for genetic studies, propagation, creation, enhancement and restoration projects. Collections will be completed manually. Varying quantities of seed from a variety of species will be collected. Seed collection may occur from June to the end of October. The work would be accomplished by requisition to local experts as well as by BLM personnel and volunteers.

To protect donor seed sites, the BLM is generally specifying that no more than 25 percent of seed set shall be collected from annual plant species and no more than 50 percent of seed shall be collected from perennial plant species within a seed collection site. Higher rates of collection will occur on land parcels that are slated for fill or where restoration efforts will destroy certain pockets of native plants.

Collection sites will include BLM, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Eugene, and possibly private lands.

Finding Of No Significant Impact On the basis of the attached "Exception Criteria Review" and all other information available to me, it is my determination that the completion of the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having

significant effect on the human environment; Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Decision Proceed with seed collection as described in the proposed action. The program will be accomplished during calendar year 1996.

Rationale The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion as described in the Department Manual (516 DM 6, Appendix 5-C(3)) and does not meet any of the exception criteria. The proposed action and recommended mitigation measures are in conformance with the Record Of Decision for Amendments To Forest Service and Bureau Of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994) and the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (May 1995).

1791A
CE-96-48

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Categorical Exclusion Review

Prepared By: _____
Date: _____

Reviewed By: _____
Date: _____

Approval:

Coast Range Area Manger: _____
Date: _____