

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

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
West Eugene Wetlands Threatened and Endangered Plant Augmentation
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2011-0001-EA**

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2011-0001-EA) which analyzed the effects of proposed augmentation of populations of threatened or endangered plant species in the West Eugene Wetlands. The BLM-administered lands in the West Eugene Wetlands contain populations of three federally threatened or endangered plants: Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*), Bradshaw's lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*), and Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus oregonus* var. *kincaidii*). The proposed approach would be applied on BLM-administered lands in the West Eugene Wetlands. The EA analyzed in detail the effects of six alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2011-0001-EA), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that the implementation of the proposed action would be consistent with the Eugene District Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan, as amended (EA, p. 2). The BLM designed this project to conform to both the 2008 Eugene District ROD and RMP and 1995 RMP. As a result, the project includes some design features not mentioned specifically in, but wholly consistent with the 2008 ROD and RMP. Consequently, this project will be consistent with the goals and objectives in both the 1995 RMP and 2008 ROD and RMP.

The implementation of any of the action alternatives would not have significant environmental effects and does not constitute a major federal action having significant effects on the human environment.

Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared. This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

Context

The Proposed Action would occur on portions of the BLM-administered lands in the West Eugene Wetlands. The geographic scope of the reasonably foreseeable impacts of the proposed action is the Eugene West Recovery Zone, as described in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (2010). The temporal scope of the reasonably foreseeable impacts of the proposed action is four years (EA, p. 2). Therefore, the potential impacts of the proposed action are of limited geographic extent and short duration.

Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity of the impacts that would result from the proposed action relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). With regards to each:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. Both beneficial and adverse impacts have been considered in the EA. The proposed action would have beneficial effects on the abundance of listed plant populations and thus would contribute to recovery of these species (EA, pp. 9-13). The EA considered potential adverse effects of the proposed action on existing plants of the three listed plants and Fender's blue butterflies and concluded that any potential adverse effect was immeasurably small (EA, p. 5). The EA concluded that there would be no adverse effects of the proposed action on designated critical habitat (EA, p. 5). The EA considered potential adverse effects of the proposed action on the genetic diversity of the three listed plant species and concluded that the proposed action would be unlikely to pose a risk to the genetic diversity of the population because the plants or seeds used would be derived from within the population in the Eugene West Recovery Zone (EA, p. 5).

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety. No aspect of the Proposed Action would have an effect on public health and safety.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There are no known historic or cultural resource sites that would be affected by the Proposed Action. The proposed action would involve minimal soil disturbance that would not affect wetland function or ecologically critical areas. The augmentation of listed plant populations would be consistent with the protection and restoration of wetlands and ecologically critical areas in the project area.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The effects of augmentation of listed plant populations is not likely to be highly controversial and is specifically recommended by the numerous plans, including the City of Eugene's West Eugene Wetlands Plan (2004) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (2010) (EA, p. 2). No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The analysis has not shown that there would be any unique or unknown risks to the human environment. Plant augmentation would involve minimal soil disturbance similar to, but of less intensity, than many routine management actions that have long been implemented in the planning area.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The environmental analysis analyzed the cumulative effect of the proposed action together with other related actions and did not identify any cumulatively significant impact (EA, pp. 9-14).

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources. There are no features within the planning area that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The EA concluded that the proposed action would have no adverse effect on endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat (EA, p. 5).

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The Proposed Action does not threaten to violate any Federal, State, local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. The Proposed

Action is consistent with the Eugene RMP, which provides direction for the protection of the environment on public lands and with the West Eugene Wetlands Plan prepared by the City of Eugene (EA, p. 2).

William E. Hatton
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

Date