

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Project Name: Wood River Wetland Bullfrog Control CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2010-27-CX

Project Location: Wood River Wetland

BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area County: Klamath County, Oregon

A. Background

The Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) is listed as sensitive on the BLM's Special Status Species List and as a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. There are a number of documented and potential predators of the Oregon spotted frog (OSF). Several introduced fish, as well as the American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), have been transplanted into the Oregon spotted frogs' historic range and may have contributed to the decline of this and other native frogs around the western USA (Hayes and Jennings 1986, Kiesecker and Blaustein 1998, Pilliod and Peterson 2001, Pearl et al. 2004, Vredenberg 2004).

Bullfrogs have been introduced into the Pacific Northwest from eastern North America. Bullfrogs are thought to possess several ecological advantages over other northwestern ranid frogs:

- 1) post-metamorphic bullfrogs can attain much larger body sizes (and thus eat larger food items) than Oregon spotted frogs in most habitats in the Pacific Northwest (Pearl et al. 2004);
- 2) bullfrogs do well and may even benefit from introduced fish that present a direct threat to native northwestern ranids, in part because bullfrog tadpoles are not palatable to many of the eastern fish that have been introduced in the west (Kruse and Francis 1977, Adams et al. 2003);
- 3) larval bullfrogs overwinter at least once and reach sizes exceeding spotted frogs (and most other western native frogs); bullfrog tadpoles can physically displace native tadpoles from shallows that are warmer and offer refuge from fish predators (Kiesecker and Blaustein 1998); and
- 4) bullfrog tadpoles are more resistant to the effects of pesticides and heavy metals than other ranid frogs (Hayes and Jennings 1986).

Exotic aquatic predators are widespread in the Klamath Basin and occur at or in close proximity to most of the sites occupied by OSFs. Some of the non-native species in the Klamath Basin include brook trout, brown trout, brown bullhead, fathead minnow, sunfish, largemouth bass, crappie, and bullfrogs. The Jack Creek and Parsnip Lakes sites represent the only OSF populations in the Klamath Basin that currently lack exotic aquatic predators.

The Wood River Wetland (WRW) is approximately 3,200 acres, and is located 25 miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon. It is currently owned and managed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Prior to the BLM acquisition in 1994, the property was in private ownership and was drained in the 1950's and operated mainly as a cow/calf operation with up to 1,300 pairs of cattle.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

The WRW OSF population is one of only nine left in the Klamath Basin. Prior to bullfrog establishment within the WRW site, it was considered one of the most stable populations in the basin. In the last 8-10 years, as bullfrog presence has increased, BLM monitoring has documented a significant decline in OSF egg masses within the site. The invasive bullfrog is likely a major contributing factor to this recent decline/displacement of OSFs over the last decade within the WRW site. There is a need to reduce the population of exotic bullfrogs to reduce the predation on Oregon spotted frogs.

Description of Proposed Action:

Bullfrogs would be captured by hand and nets/gigs from canoes by trained government personnel. Capturing would be conducted at night and battery powered, hand-held spotlights would be used to locate bullfrogs. The bullfrogs are pithed and their stomach contents are analyzed. A target of removing approximately 100 to 200 bullfrogs per year over the next 5-10 years should substantially reduce the predation effect on OSFs.

Proposed Implementation:

This project would be implemented in summers between FY2010 and 2020 as funding is available.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This project had been designed to comply with the land use allocations, management direction, and objectives of the 1996 Klamath Falls Resource Area Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Resource Management Plan (1996 WRWRMP). The WRW RMP Record of Decision (ROD) states “Maintain a viable population of spotted frogs on the property.” (Special Status Species Habitat Section WRWRMP/ROD 1996).

The project has also been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the Conservation Agreement for the Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) in the Klamath Basin of Oregon (2010) signed by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fremont-Winema National Forests, Lakeview District of the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management, Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 A(6) (*Relocation of nuisance or depredating wildlife, providing the relocation does not introduce new species into the ecosystem.*)

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis or documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provided none of the Extraordinary Circumstances listed in 516 Departmental Manual 2, Appendix 2 (5/27/04) are met. The proposed action will:

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The proposed action is the removal of the invasive bullfrog. No issues to public health or safety will arise from this action.		
2.2 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
Rationale: None of these resources would be affected.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: Bullfrog removal would not result in highly controversial effects or unresolved conflicts.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: Bullfrog removal would not result in highly uncertain, unique or unknown environmental risks.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Allowing removal of bullfrogs would not set a precedent for future action.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: The proposed removal of bullfrogs would not result in significant impacts when considered with other actions.		
2.7 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.		X
Rationale: The proposed removal of bullfrogs would not result in significant impacts to NRHPs.		
2.8 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.		X

Rationale: No Threatened or Endangered species will be negatively affected by the proposed action.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: The proposed action will be completed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: There will be not any different effect on low income or minority population than on other segments of the population.		
2.11 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 (Executive Order 13007).		X
Rationale: No known site exist.		
2.12 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 Executive Order 13112).		X
Rationale: Mitigation measure will be applied to minimize risk of spread of weeds.		

The proposed action would not meet any of the above extraordinary circumstances, or fail to comply with Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects) – to avoid direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.

D. Surveys and Consultation

Surveys and/or consultation may be needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary (appropriate fields are Initialed and Dated by responsible resource specialist):

Surveys	Are Completed	Will Be Completed	Are Not Needed
SS Animals			SGH 7/29/10
SS Plants			JS 7/12/10
Cultural Resources			BMB 7/12/10
Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS Animal Consultation*			SGH 7/29/10
Botanical Consultation			JS 7/12/10
Cultural Consultation			BMB 7/12/10
*(SS = Special Status)			

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Robert Roninger, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-883-6916

F. Mitigation Measures

Botany/Noxious Weeds:

Make sure canoe and other gear is clean of plant materials before using in the Wood River Canal.

Figure 1

Wood River Wetlands Vicinity

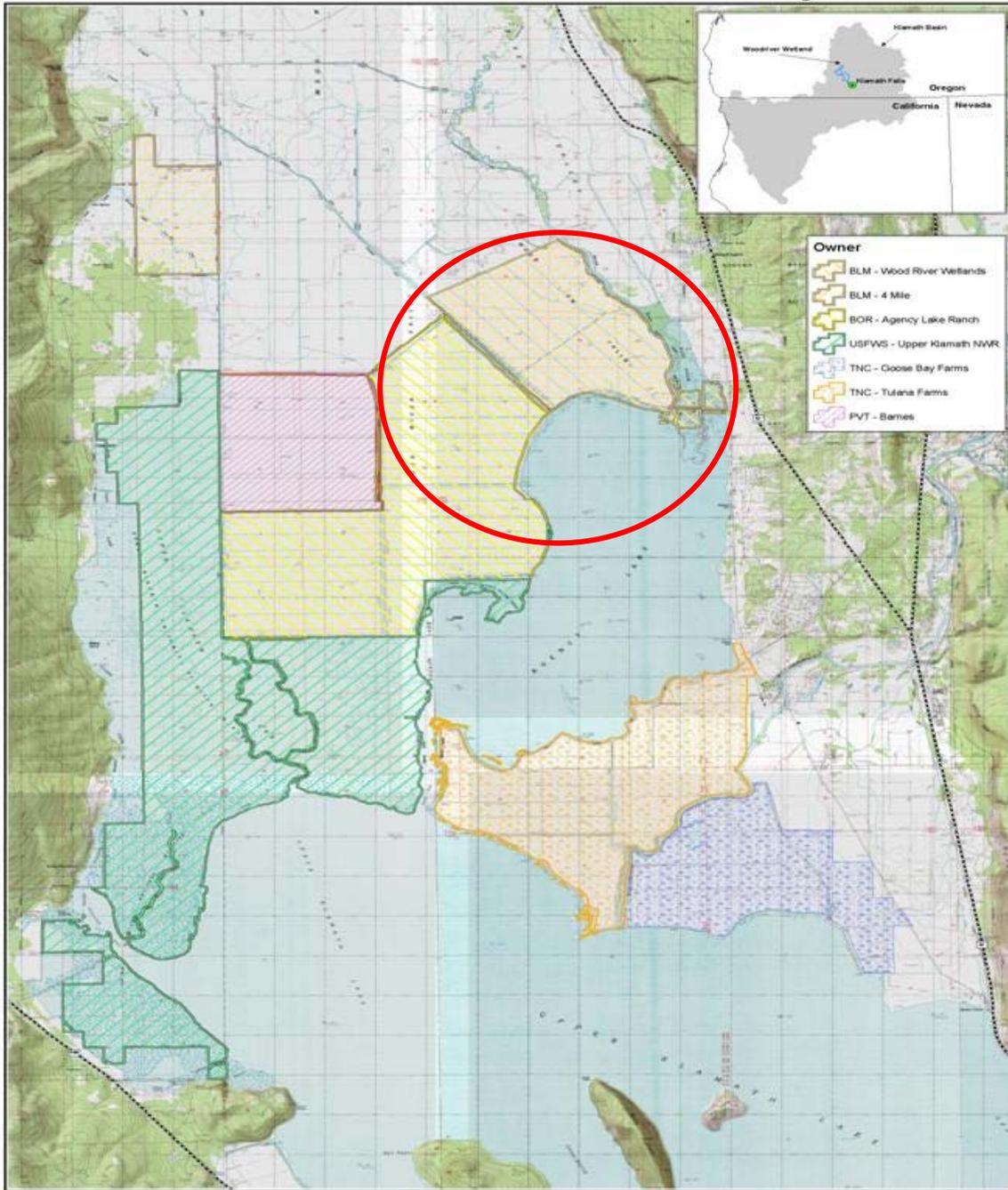


Figure 2 – Wood River Canal Bullfrog Control Site Segments

