

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

Project Name: Wood River Wetland Elevation Benchmarks CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2010-29-CX

Project Location: Wood River Wetland

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

### **A. Background**

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. Approximately 2,800 acres of the property is protected from flooding from the Wood River and Agency Lake by a system of levees.

#### Description of Proposed Action:

A total of 6 benchmarks would be installed in well distributed locations throughout the 2,800 acre Wood River Wetland on the inside of the system of levees. For each benchmark, a stainless steel rod 9/16" inch diameter would be driven into the ground in 4' sections using a t-post driver or similar device. The total length for each benchmark rod will be 20 to 40 feet, depending on the resistance of the underlying substrate. Once the rod is driven to refusal, a 12 inches long x 6 inches diameter PVC pipe would be driven into the ground about 10 inches and the resulting soil plug removed. It would then be filled to the top with ready-mix to stabilize the benchmark rod. A flat topped 2 inch diameter plastic protective cap would be installed on the end of the stainless steel rod and would extend above ground by no more than 6 inches.

#### Purpose and Need for the Project:

Currently, it is not possible to measure whether wetland restoration actions are having the intended benefit of rebuilding the lost organic soils needed to restore wetland vegetation and functions. The proposed benchmarks would be used to detect elevation changes in the wetland over time and can serve as permanent elevation benchmarks for a variety of monitoring and construction activities in the future.

#### Proposed Implementation:

This project would be implemented in FY2010 and 2011.

### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

This project had been designed to comply with the land use allocations, management direction, and objectives of the 1996 Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Resource Management Plan (1996 WRW RMP). The WRW RMP Record of Decision (ROD) calls for Plan Monitoring stating that one of the purposes of the monitoring is to "Determine if activities are producing the expected results an meeting stated objectives (effectiveness monitoring)", (Plan Monitoring WRWRMP/ROD 1996).

### **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 2, Appendix 1 (1.6) *nondestructive data collection* and 516 DM 11.9 (G.2) *installation of routine signs and markers*.

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:

<b>CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>		
<b>The proposed categorical exclusion action will:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: 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: Installation of benchmarks 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: Benchmark installation 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: Benchmark installation 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: Benchmark installation 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: Per 36 CFR 800.3(a) and (a)(1) this issuance is one “that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic Properties.” Benchmark installation 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 such known sites exist in the project area.		
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 measures 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):

<b>Surveys</b>	<b>Are Completed</b>	<b>Will Be Completed</b>	<b>Are Not Needed</b>
SS Animals	SGH 08/23/10		
SS Plants			JS 8/20/10
Cultural Resources			BMB 8/31/10
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Is Completed</b>	<b>Will Be Completed</b>	<b>Is Not Needed</b>
SS Animal Consultation*			SGH 08/23/10
Botanical Consultation			JS 8/20/10
Cultural Consultation			BMB 8/31/10
*(SS = Special Status)			

#### E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

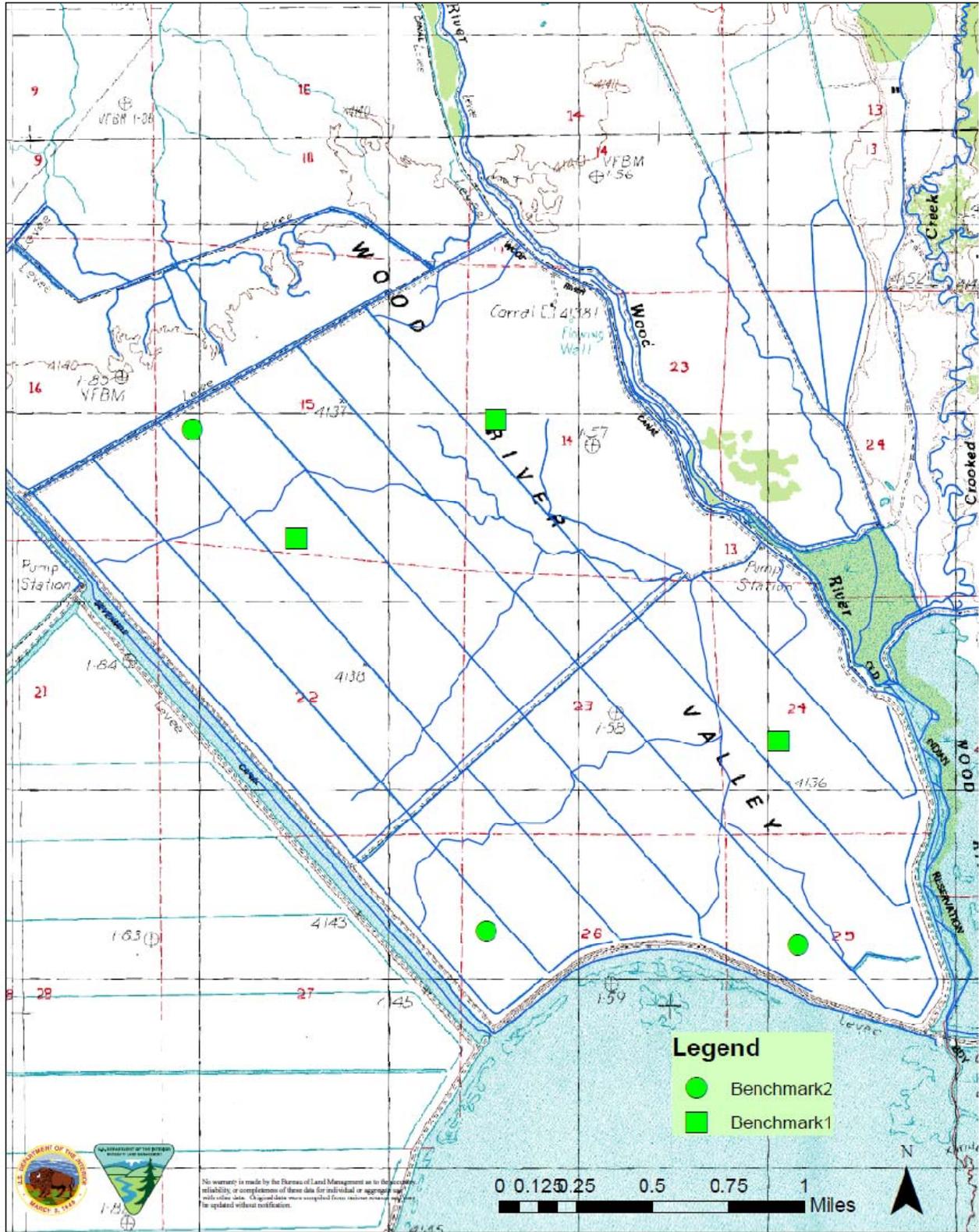
Andy Hamilton, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-883-6916

#### F. Mitigation Measures

All sites will be accessed by walking from the adjacent levee road. No motorized transportation equipment will be used within the wetland to access the sites.

Waders, tools, supplies, and equipment will be washed and inspected for possible weed seeds when moving between areas and prior to entering the project area.

Potential locations for Elevation Benchmarks (six total),  
T 34 S R 7.5 E



# Determination for Wood River Wetland Elevation Benchmarks Categorical Exclusion

## Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Project Name: Wood River Elevation Benchmarks CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2010-29-CX  
BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area County: Klamath County, Oregon

I have determined that it is appropriate to proceed with the installation of up to six elevation benchmarks in the Wood River Wetland area as described in the Categorical Exclusion (CX) including mitigation measures and shown on the attached map.

### Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures, as specified, will be incorporated into the proposal. The proposed action would not create significant adverse environmental effects, 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.

Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

### Signature

Authorizing Official:                     /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom                      
(Signature)

Date:                     9/15/10                    

Name: Donald J. Holmstrom

Title: Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area