

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DOCUMENTATION for
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Wood River Wetland Water Control Structure Installation & Ditch Maintenance**

NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2014-18-CX

Case Number: OROR 49068

Project Location: Wood River Wetland, SW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 13 and the SE1/4 SE1/4 of Section 14 and Lot 04 of T34S, R7.5E , W.M..(see map)

A. Background

Description of Proposed Action:

The Wood River Wetland (WRW) is approximately 3,200 acres, and is located 25 miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon. It is managed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Water levels are managed by a system of canals, water control structures and pumps. The Wood River Canal lies between the Wood River and the associated wetland (see maps).

The work consists of installation of a flashboard riser water control structure (WCS) with a discharge culvert to hydrologically connect the canal and the wetland. The WCS would be installed according to specifications supplied by BLM biologists and engineers. Approximately 800 feet of an existing ditch would be maintained using an excavator to the approximate dimensions of 6 feet wide by 2 feet deep.

The existing levee road where the WCS and culvert would be placed would be excavated and the material would be stockpiled nearby in order to reuse as fill. The culvert would be 36 inches in diameter and 30 feet long.

The new WSC would be placed at the appropriate elevation (base of canal) and according to specifications. Base material (rock) of appropriate size would be placed/compacted at thickness needed in order to provide stability below and around the WCS. The equipment operator would use appropriate material around the culvert to ensure a good seal. The levee road would be reconstructed using base material and previously excavated native fill material. The surface of the crossing shall be restored and re-contoured to government specifications. Finally, erosion control materials would be placed to allow adequate protection while the site stabilizes.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

The purpose of the proposed action would be to maintain the existing ditch and install a flashboard riser WCS to convey water from the south half of the wetland to the north half.

Water management of WRW includes a north half and a south half which is separated by a center levee. The topography of the WRW allows water to move from the north half to the south half by

gravity. Existing infrastructure does not allow water to be circulated from the south half to the north half.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Record of Decision

Date Approved/Amended: February 1996

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Record of Decision, February 1996, (Wood River ROD) states within the Water Resources Objective that the “techniques used for wetland restoration will be a combination of existing and constructed water control structures (berms, ditches, screwgates, and flashboard dams)...”

The proposed project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans, programmatic environmental analyses or policies:

- Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991)
- Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1985) and Supplement (1987)
- Integrated Weed Control Plan (IWCP) 1993

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, #1.7 for “*maintenance, renovations and replacement activities.*”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. The following documentation describes whether or not the extraordinary circumstances apply to the project:

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
Will the proposed categorical exclusion action:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: Consulted with field/district office health and safety specialist and no significant impacts were identified.		
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: Although there is potential to affect wetland soils and vegetation, any effects would be short term and insignificant.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: No highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources were identified by resource specialist during project analysis.		

2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: The structures will be replaced according to standard methodology. No highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks were identified by resource specialist during project analysis.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: BLM resource specialists have determined that this will not establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects, because this is a minor and routine action.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: No direct relationships to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects were identified by resource specialists during project analysis.		
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 project has been reviewed by the local archeologist; the area has been previously inventoried and it is believed no historic properties would be affected.		
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: BLM Aquatic Species Biologists have determined that there will be no significant impacts on the Oregon spotted frog or its habitat. No Oregon Spotted Frogs or egg masses were documented during 2013 or 2014 monitoring efforts. In addition, Project Design Features (PDFs) #8 and 9 as described in Appendix A will be implemented..		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: Does not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: Review of the project area location shows no disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		
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: Does not 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.		
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: Refer to Exhibit A (attached) project design features (PDFs) #10 -13.		

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, or impact RMP exclusion and avoidance areas.

Surveys and Consultation

Surveys and/or consultation are not 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 06/03/2014
SS* Plants			JLB 6/9/14
Cultural Resources			SAH 6/2/2014
Lands/ROWs			
Cadastral			
Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS* Animal Consultation			SGH 06/03/2014
Botanical Consultation			JLB 6/9/14
Cultural Consultation			SAH 6/2/2014
*(SS = Special Status)			

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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

**Determination for Wood River Wetland Water Control Structure Installation and Ditch Maintenance
DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2014-18-CX**

Rationale

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

Authorizing Official: /s/ Terry Austin, acting for Date: June 9, 2014
Name: Donald J. Holmstrom
Title: Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Appendix A – Project Design Features (PDFs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Water Quality and Aquatic Species

1. Inspect and clean heavy equipment as necessary prior to moving on to the project site, in order to remove oil and grease, noxious weeds, and excessive soil.
2. Inspect hydraulic fluid and fuel lines on heavy-mechanized equipment for proper working condition.
3. Locate equipment washing sites in areas with no potential for runoff into wetlands, riparian management areas, floodplains and waters of the state. Do not use solvents or detergents to clean equipment on site.
4. Where possible, maintain and refuel equipment a minimum of 100 feet away from streams and other waterbodies.
5. In the event of a spill or release, all reasonable and safe actions to contain the material will be taken. Specific actions are dependent on the nature of the material spilled.
6. Spill Containment Kit (SCK): All operators shall have a SCK as described in the SPCC plan on-site during any operation with potential for run-off to adjacent water bodies. The SCK will be appropriate in size and type for the equipment and oil or hazardous material carried by the operator.
7. Place excavated material from removed stream crossings on stable ground outside of wetlands, riparian management areas, floodplains and waters of the State. In some cases material could be used for recontouring old road cuts or be spread across roadbed and treated to prevent erosion.
8. Project implementation will occur in July to allow Oregon Spotted Frog tadpoles to metamorphose into frogs, increasing their mobility and therefore decreasing potential project impacts.
9. Recent monitoring data shows that there are likely very few Oregon Spotted Frogs in Section 2 of the Wood River Canal. However, this section will be drawn down slowly in order to allow any metamorph, subadult, or adult frogs to avoid any potential impacts from project implementation.

Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Species

10. All vehicles and equipment will be cleaned off prior to operating on BLM lands. Removal of all dirt, grease, and plant parts that may carry noxious weed seeds or vegetative parts is required and may be accomplished with a pressure hose.
11. High concentrations of noxious weeds in the immediate area of mechanical operations shall be mowed to ground level prior to the start of project activities.
12. All equipment and vehicles operating off of main roads shall be cleaned off prior to leaving the job site when the job site includes noxious weed populations. Removal of all dirt, grease, and plant parts that may carry noxious weed seeds or vegetative parts is required and may be accomplished with a pressure hose.
13. All gravel and other fill material delivered to the site should be from a weed free source.

Soils

14. Retain and establish adequate vegetative cover in accordance with RMP Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion.
15. Rehabilitate disturbed areas (disturbed soils at worksite, ruts created in roads, etc.).

Wood River Wetland Ditch Maintenance and Water Control Structure Installation

