

**Documentation of Plan Conformance and
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0013-DNA

Office: Medford District Office, Butte Falls Resource Area

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0013-DNA

Casefile/Project Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA *Revised Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Environmental Assessment*

Proposed Action Title/Type: Beaver Dam Creek and Jackass Creek Riparian Planting

Location of Proposed Action:

Township 34 South, Range 3 East, Section 3, 9 and 29;

Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon (see Maps 1 and 2)

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to plant conifers and hardwoods in the Beaver Dam Creek wetland area and conifers along BLM road #34-3E-29 after decommissioning. The objectives of planting vegetation in these riparian areas include increasing structural and species diversity, providing long-term benefits of stream shading, large wood recruitment, organic litter, and root strength for stream bank stability.

Riparian planting would occur on up to 20 acres of riparian area on BLM-administered land within the Beaver Dam Creek and North Fork Big Butte Creek sixth field watersheds. The Beaver Dam Creek wet meadow and the Jackass Creek riparian area were identified in the Flat Creek-Summit Prairie Grazing Lease Renewal Environmental Assessment as having degraded streambanks, compacted soils, heavy pressure on native plants and recommended a cattle enclosure. The Jackass Creek riparian area and a portion of the Beaver Dam Creek wetland are scheduled to be fenced in 2010.

The wet meadows in the Beaver Dam Creek sixth field watershed located northeast of Butte Falls are unique to the Butte Falls Resource Area. Most grassy openings in the resource area are rocky with shallow soils on gentle to steep slopes and contain predominantly annual nonnative grasses. The wet meadows proposed for riparian planting have deeper soils and high water tables and have historically contained native grasses, rushes, sedges and riparian shrubs. Planting a combination of native conifers and hardwoods along streambanks and in surrounding riparian areas would improve bank stability, provide large wood recruitment, and increase stream shade.

A portion of the Jackass Creek road (BLM road #34-3E-29) is located in the riparian area and 0.4 mile will be fully decommissioned, as analyzed in Ranch Stew II Environmental Assessment (DOI-OR-M050-2010-0001-EA). Planting conifers along the road after full decommissioning will improve large wood recruitment and increase stream shade.

Project Design Features

The following PDFs (project design features) will be implemented. These PDFs are a compilation of best management practices identified in the Medford District ROD/RMP and resource protection measures identified by the Interdisciplinary Team. The PDFs would serve as a basis for resource protection in the implementation of the projects.

Planting

- Conifers and hardwoods will be planted on a 10-foot by 10-foot or 12-foot by 12-foot spacing.
- Species planted will consist of ponderosa pine, incense cedar, white fir, willow, rose spirea, pacific dogwood, and alder.
- Trees and shrubs will be hand planted with a shovel or hoedad.
- 3-foot by 3-foot paper or plastic mulch may be placed around approximately 300 trees per acre on up to 20 acres.
- All trash and garbage will be removed and disposed of properly
- No overnight camping will be allowed at the site or in the surrounding area.
- Vehicles will stay on existing roads and trails.

Wildlife

- Planting activities will be seasonally restricted from February 1 to August 15 within 0.5 mile of known, active peregrine falcon nest sites.
- Planting activities will be seasonally restricted from January 1 to August 31 within 0.25 mile of known, occupied bald eagle nests and 0.5 mile if the nest is within line-of-sight.
- Planting activities will be seasonally restricted from March 1 to July 15 within 0.25 mile of known, occupied nest sites of other raptors (e.g., goshawk, great gray owl, red-tailed hawk).
- Planting activities will be seasonally restricted from March 1 to August 1 within 0.25 mile of known, occupied osprey nest sites.

Special Status Plants

- Known Special Status vascular plant, lichen, bryophyte, and fungi sites will be protected using no entry buffers. Buffers will be determined based on species, proposed treatment, site-specific environmental conditions, and available management recommendations.

Archaeology

- Mitigating measures will be applied to areas containing known archaeological sites. Buffers will be determined based on proposed treatment, site-specific environmental conditions, and protection recommendations.
- Stop work and notify the BLM within 12 hours if an archaeological site is discovered during the project.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD 1994);
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (EIS, 1994 and ROD/RMP, 1995).

C. Applicable NEPA Documents and Other Related Documents that cover the Proposed Action

- *Revised Environmental Assessment for Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement* (DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA), June 2009.
- *Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement* (DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA) Decision Record, June 2009.

This proposal also complies with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

This EA has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it covers the proposed action:

- 1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially the same as, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

The proposed action is consistent with the selected alternative analyzed in the *Revised Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement EA*. In the selected alternative a range of watershed enhancement actions were grouped into three categories: riparian vegetation, stream enhancement, and road and culvert projects (Bureau of Land Management 2009, 4).

The Beaver Dam Creek and Jackass Creek riparian planting project meets the objectives for the riparian vegetation projects identified in the EA on page 5: “The riparian vegetation treatments seek to improve health and vigor of stands to increase riparian function to support aquatic species. Specifically, the objectives include increasing structural and species diversity that provide long-term benefits of stream shading, large wood recruitment, organic litter and root strength for stream bank stability. Improved riparian conditions are intended to increase aquatic habitat for adult holding, spawning and juvenile rearing.” Silvicultural treatments identified in the EA that promote the objectives include tree planting.

The proposed action is on BLM-administered land in the Butte Falls Resource Area of the Medford District. The EA covers all lands within and adjacent to the Medford District Bureau of Land Management.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the new proposed action is the same as the riparian vegetation action identified in the selected alternative of the EA. The resource values, environmental concerns, and interests are also the same.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listing, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed the proposed riparian planting project and determined no significant changes in circumstances or significant new information has occurred since the EA was written. All surveys were completed for plants, wildlife, and cultural resources.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

The proposed action is not significantly different from the action analyzed in the EA. This project would include the applicable project design features and best management practices as identified by BLM resource specialists. The impacts from this action are within those anticipated from the proposed action in the EA. Impacts from this project are expected to be short-term. Adverse impacts may occur during implementation of the action and would not differ from the cumulative impacts analyzed in the EA.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current proposed action?

The BLM extended an invitation to the local and regional communities and other state and federal agencies, private organizations, and individuals to develop issues and resources important to local, state, national, and international economies.

Public scoping for the EA was initiated in June 2008. The BLM mailed scoping letters to landowners and others who have asked to be kept informed about upcoming BLM projects. The letter described the intent and purpose for the project, treatment options, and the needs of the landscape. The letter included contact information for the public to submit comments or questions. Phone calls and comment letters provided public input for BLM consideration.

The following agencies were contacted during the planning process: United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, BLM mailed letters to the Confederate Tribes of Siletz, The Confederate Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

References

Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service. *Final Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Portland: Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service, 1994.

Bureau of Land Management. *Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Decision Record*. Decision Record, Medford: Bureau of Land Management: Medford District Office, 2009.

Bureau of Land Management. *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*. ROD/RMP, Medford: Bureau of Land Management: Medford District Office, 1995.

Bureau of Land Management. *Revised Environmental Assessment for Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement*. Environmental Assessment, Medford: Bureau of Land Management: Medford District Office, 2009.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

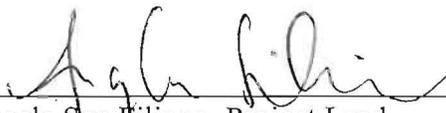
The following Butte Falls Resource Area resource specialists have reviewed this proposed action and have determined this action is covered in the *Revised Environmental Assessment for Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement* (DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA).

Name	Resource	Initials	Date
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife	DR	4/9/10
Ron Gregory	Cultural	R2G	4/21/10
Angela San Filippo	Fisheries	AS	5/4/10
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	SLS	4/12/10
Ken Van Etten	Soil	KBL	4/12/10
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	mw	7/12/2010
Doug Stewart	Silviculture	DS	4-7-10
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	RW	7/12/2010
Robyn Wicks			

Seasonal restrictions in section 3.

Conclusion

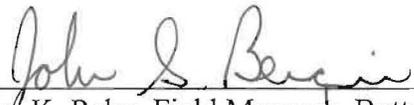
Based on the review documented above, I conclude this proposal conforms to the 1995 ROD/RMP. The NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Angela San Filippo, Project Lead



Jean Williams, NEPA Coordinator
Robyn Wicks

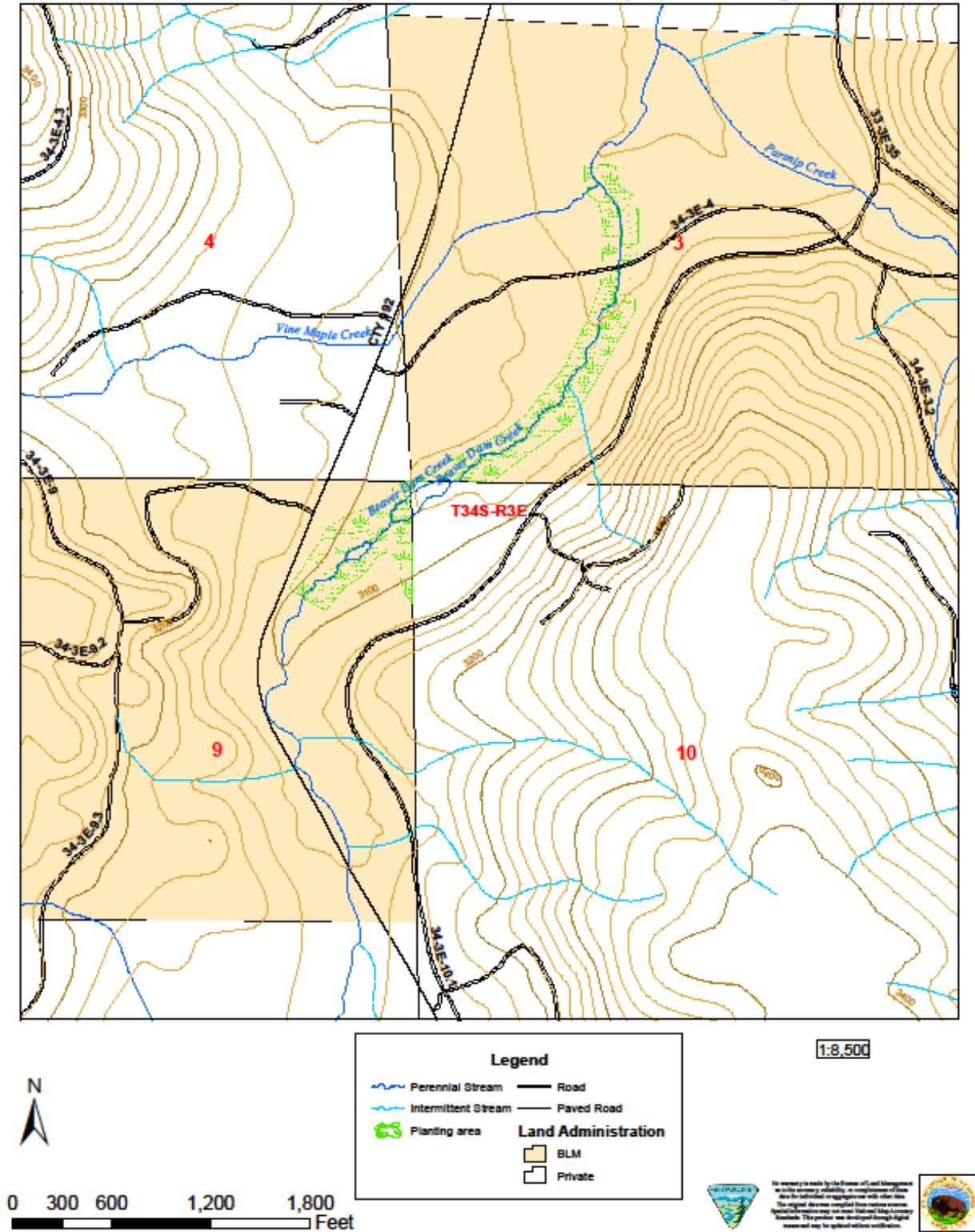


For John K. Raby, Field Manager, Butte Falls Resource Area

7/13/2010

Date

Map 1: Beaver Dam Creek Riparian Planting



Map 2: Jackass Creek Road Riparian Planting

