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

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0015-DNA

Office: Medford District Office, Butte Falls Resource Area

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0015-DNA

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

Proposed Action Title/Type: Big Butte Creek Watershed LWD Restoration Project

Location of Proposed Action:
Township 35 South, Range 2 East, Sections, 13 and 23, and
Township 35 South, Range 3 East, Section 5, and
Township 34 South, Range 2 East, Section 33, and
Township 34 South, Range 3 East, Sections 27 and 33.
Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon (see maps 1 and 2)

A. Description of the Proposed Action

In early January 2008, a series of winter storms hit the West Coast. The storms brought strong winds, heavy rain and snow to southern Oregon and northern California. Wind gusts up to 90 miles per hour downed power lines and uprooted trees throughout the Rogue Valley. Across the Butte Falls Resource Area in the Medford District BLM, stands contain patches of trees blown down and residual standing trees damaged by these storms. See Butte Falls Blowdown Salvage Environmental Assessment for more information (Bureau of Land Management 2008).

The Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District Bureau of Land Management proposes to remove blowdown trees from about four acres of roadside riparian areas and place the trees in seven sites on North Fork Big Butte Creek. Blowdown identified for relocation is 100 feet or more from stream channels and is accessible from existing roads. The blowdown trees, will be cable yarded to existing roads or landings, hauled, and placed in North Fork Big Butte Creek with an excavator. The blowdown trees will be placed instream to improve stream habitat for salmonid fish and other aquatic species. These trees placed in the stream are considered to be large woody debris (LWD). The Blowdown proposed for relocation and all proposed sites for LWD placement are within the Big Butte Creek fifth field watershed.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) division listed the Southern Oregon Northern California (SO/NC) Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in May 1997. As directed under ESA, NOAA Fisheries designates SO/NC Coho Salmon Critical Habitat (CCH) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), which is defined as areas within the geographical area currently or historically occupied by the species that have the physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and requires special management and protection.

The purpose of this project is to relocate blowdown from the outermost riparian reserves of intermittent non-fishbearing stream channels to Coho Critical Habitat on North Fork Big Butte

Creek. This will facilitate the improvement of Coho Critical Habitat on BLM administered lands by increasing habitat complexity, creating pools, and providing cover.

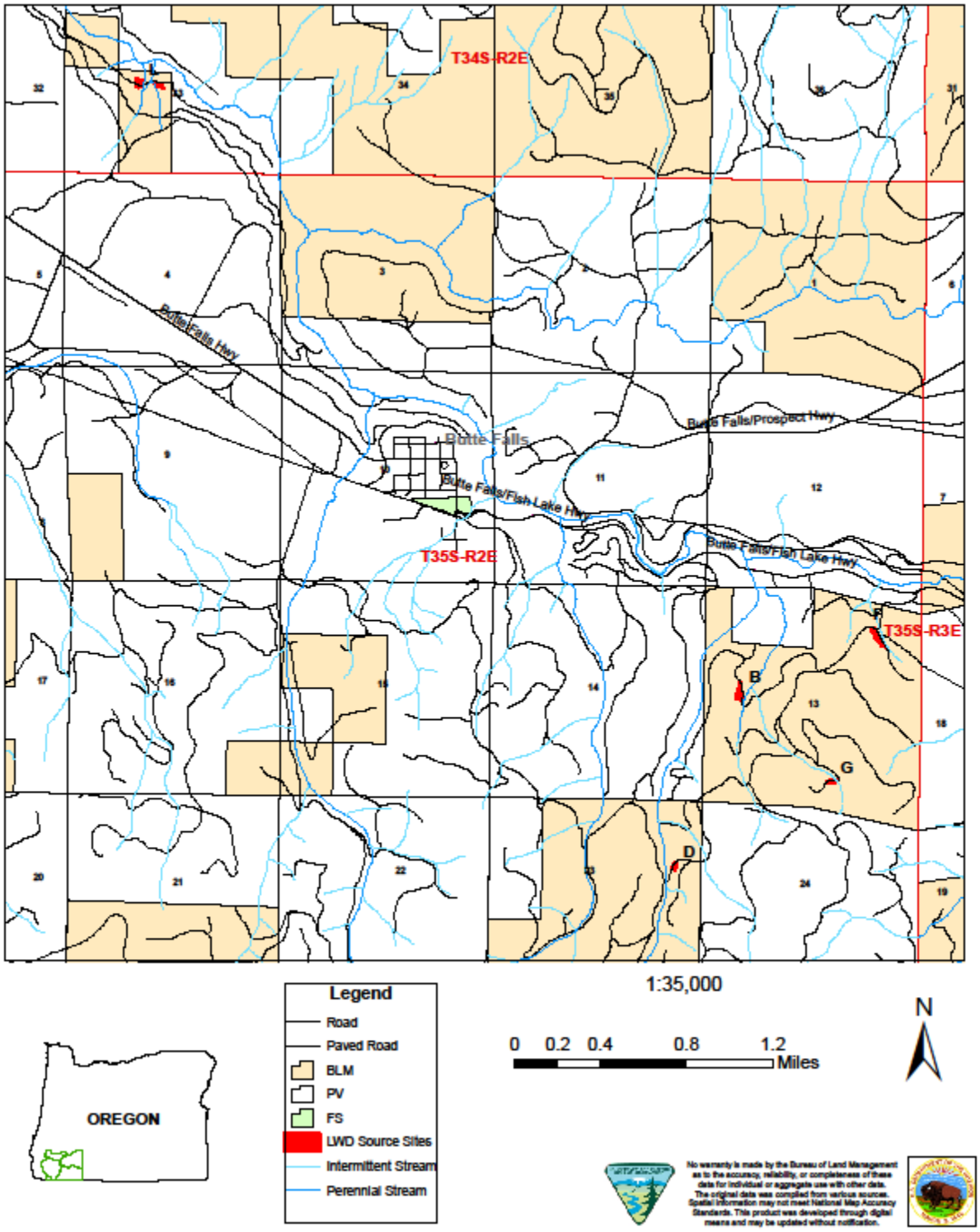
Up to 53 pieces of blowdown would be relocated to CCH on North Fork Big Butte Creek and would increase habitat complexity on about 1.5 miles of stream. Project Design Features and Best Management Practices will be implemented for all blowdown removal and instream LWD placement. Table 1 depicts the location, tree species, average diameter, and average length of blowdown that would be available for instream structures. The Unit ID column heading in Table 1 corresponds to Map 1 LWD source sites.

Table 1: Proposed Blowdown for Instream LWD Structures

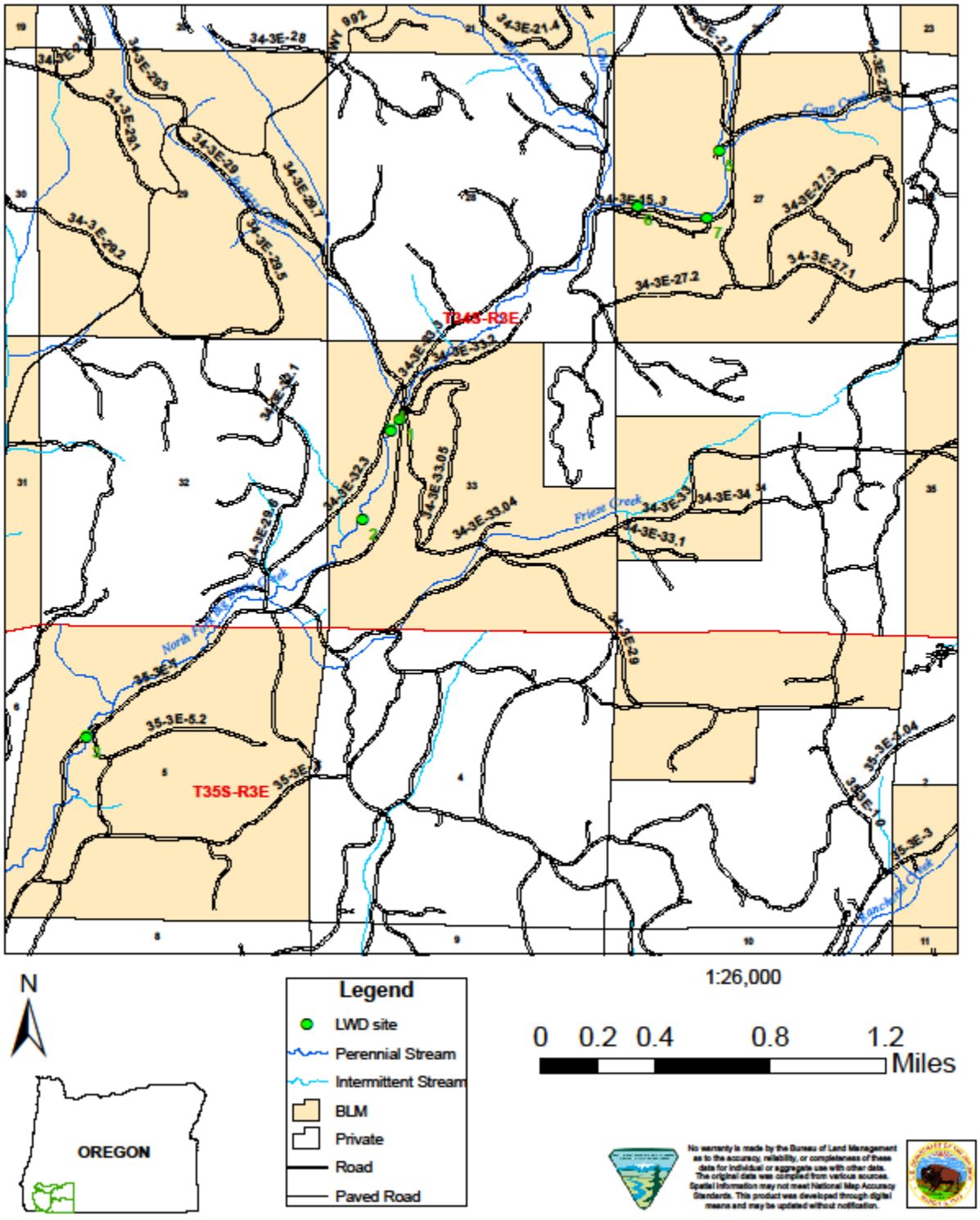
Township, Range, Section	Unit ID	Douglas Fir	White Fir	Incense Cedar	Total	Ave. DBH (in)	Ave. Length (ft)
35S2E13	B	8	1	0	9	27	42
	F	14	0	0	14	21	21
	G	4	4	0	8	16	30
35S2E23	D	6	0	0	6	26	18
34S2E33	L	13	1	2	16	22	47
Total					**53**	**22**	**31**

The blowdown available for instream structures have an average diameter of 22 inches and an average length of 31 feet, with all but six pieces having attached rootwads. The blowdown would be removed from five sites in three different sections. The majority of the trees are Douglas fir, followed by white fir, and incense cedar. Map 1 depicts the location of blowdown source sites and Map 2 depicts the location of LWD placement sites.

Map 1: Big Butte Creek Watershed LWD Source Sites



Map 2: North Fork Big Butte LWD Placement Sites



Project Design Features

The following PDFs will be implemented. These PDFs are a compilation of BMPs 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.

Riparian Reserves

- Remove only trees designated for removal.
- Maintain 100 foot buffer width on either side of all stream channels.
- No trees removed from riparian reserve will be yarded across any stream channel.
- Remove only wind thrown and root sprung trees. All snags, broken top trees, and damaged green trees will be left, unless identified as a hazard to workers or the public. Hazardous trees will be felled and left on-site.
- Remove only wind thrown trees in excess of those trees needed to meet coarse woody debris levels of 9 pieces greater than 20 inches in diameter and more than 20 feet long per acre. The tree species preferred for coarse woody debris have the lowest susceptibility to insect build-up: incense cedar, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and white fir. The most susceptible to insect build-up is Douglas-fir.
- Removal of trees would be above the slope break within riparian reserves.
- The in-stream work period would be between June 15th and September 15th of the same year in accordance with State of Oregon regulations.
- Mechanized equipment will not leave existing roads or existing landings.
- LWD will be placed no closer than 30 feet of any road drainage structure inlet or outlet.

Soil and Hydrology

- Only existing roads and landings that are presently accessible will be used.
- Seasonally restrict all log hauling, and landing operations on native surface or inadequately rocked roads whenever soil moisture conditions or rain events could result in road damage or the transport of sediment to nearby stream channels, generally October 15 to May 15.
- Restrict all log hauling, and landing operations on adequately rocked roads whenever soil moisture conditions or rain events could result in road damage or the transport of sediment to nearby stream channels, especially between the dates of October 15 and May 15. Allow road or landing use between those dates only during periods of dry weather.
- Scatter logging slash or seed and mulch exposed soil in riparian reserves where ground disturbance from log yarding has occurred.

Wildlife

- No LWD will be removed from Northern Spotted Owl Habitat.

Fuel Hazard Reduction

- Observe all fire precautions as specified in contract and ensure proper fire prevention equipment is on-site.

Special Status Plants

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

Noxious Weeds

- Wash logging equipment, including undercarriages, before initial move-in and prior to all subsequent move-ins into the Project Area to remove soil and plant parts and prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
- Cleaning shall be defined as removal of dirt, grease, plant parts, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds and parts onto BLM lands. Cleaning prior to entry onto BLM lands may be accomplished by use of a pressure hose.
- Only logging equipment visually inspected by a qualified BLM specialist, to verify that equipment has been cleaned, will be allowed to operate within the Project Area, or in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area. All subsequent move-ins of logging and construction equipment will be treated the same as the initial move-in.
- Seed and mulch LWD placement access sites using native seed and weed-free straw after final disturbance.

Archaeology

- Apply mitigating measures 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* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 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.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service *Biological Opinion and Letter of Concurrence USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management and the Coquille Indian Tribe for Programmatic Aquatic habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington that Affect ESA-listed Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species and their Critical Habitats* 13420-2007-F-0055

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 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 Big Butte Creek Watershed LWD Project meets the objectives for the stream enhancement projects identified in the EA, page 6: “Stream projects aim to improve aquatic habitat through increased habitat complexity. Through increasing channel complexity and stability, the projects seek to increase spawning gravel retention and form pool habitat for adult holding and juvenile rearing. Project activities are also intended to improve hydrologic function of floodplains and stabilize banks.”

   Actions identified in the EA include placement of log structures to create instream and off-channel habitat that would benefit fish and other aquatic fauna. Logs would be placed instream

through cable yarding systems or with heavy equipment. Whole trees from adjacent riparian area or off-site would be used for instream large wood.

The proposed action is within the Medford District in the Butte Falls Resource Area on BLM administered land, the EA covers all lands within 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 stream enhancement 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 large wood placement 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 at the LWD extraction and LWD placement sites.

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 includes 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 Medford District Aquatic Enhancement Environmental assessment was initiated in June 2008, when BLM sent 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 needs of the landscape, and contact information to submit comments or questions. In addition, phone calls and comment letters provided public input for BLM consideration.

The following agencies were contacted during the planning process: USDA Forest Service, US 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 and the Confederate Tribes of Grand Ronde as well as the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe Indians.

References

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. *Butte Falls Blowdown Salvage Environmental Assessment.* Environmental Assessment, Medford: Bureau of Land Management: Medford District Office, 2008.

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.

National Marine Fisheries Service: Northwest Region. *Endangered Species Act-Section 7 Programmatic Consultation Biological and Conference Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation.* Programmatic Consultation, Seattle: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2007.

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 Biologist	D.R.	5/12/2010
Ron Gregory	Cultural Resources	RGY	6/3/2010
Angela San Filippo	Fisheries	AS	5-10-10
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	SLS	5-7-2010
Ken Van Etten	Soil	KBV	5-6-2010
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	mw	6/9/10
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	JW	6/9/2010
Randy Bryan	Engineering/Roads	RRB	5-6-10

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 — June 14, 2010

Jean Williams, NEPA Coordinator — June 9, 2010

Jon K. Raby, Field Manager, Butte Falls Resource Area — June 10, 2010 (Date)