

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

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0008-DNA

Office: Medford District Office Bureau of Land Management, Butte Falls Resource Area

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0008-DNA

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

Proposed Action Title/Type: West Fork Evans Creek Collaborative Restoration Project 2013
(West Evans 2013)

Location of Proposed Action:

Township 33 South, Range 3 West, Sections 7 and 18

Township 34 South, Range 3 West, Section 3

Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon (see included maps)

A. Description of the Proposed Action

Butte Falls Resource Area – Medford District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to create 14 large wood jams in West Evans Creek in section 7 by directionally falling trees within the riparian reserve, to land in the bank-full width of the stream. Trees will be felled on top of one another in attempt to build log jams. In some cases, where falling would not result in trees landing into the bank-full channel, cables will be used to pull trees into place with a yarder from an existing road. Some trees maybe bucked into several logs during placement, approximately two bank-full widths in length. Logs will be felled or placed in an attempt to key in the structure to reduce mobility, with the largest log or tree on top. Fourteen log jams will be created over a 0.9 mile stretch of West Evans Creek by felling 50 trees. Tree diameters will range from 12 to 40 inches diameter at breast height. Trees felled for this project will consist of Douglas Fir, White Fir, Ponderosa Pine, and Incense Cedar.

The BLM proposes to create 6 large wood jams along 0.5 miles of stream in the south half of section 18. Logs for the jams will come from trees donated by Lone Rock Timber. Logs will be staged along West Evans Creek Road in Township 33 South, Range 3 West, section 18 and yarded into place from the road. Large wood diameter range, lengths, species, and placement will be the same as described above for section 7.

The BLM proposes to decommission 0.2 miles of road 34S-3W-3.6. All culverts will be pulled and natural drainage contours restored. The road bed will be ripped, seeded (20 pounds/acre) with a native seed mix and mulched with weed free straw (1000 pounds/acre). Water-bars will be placed as needed but no less than every 100 feet. The road will be double-ditch-and-bermed on the north side. Material from culvert removal will be incorporated into the road base to create positive drainage toward the fill edge, or used to make waterbars prior to ripping, seeding, and mulching. Culverts will be removed off BLM lands.

All activities will take place within the Upper West Evans and Lower West Evans sub-watersheds. This project is part of a collaborative effort with Lone Rock Timber, Oregon Fish

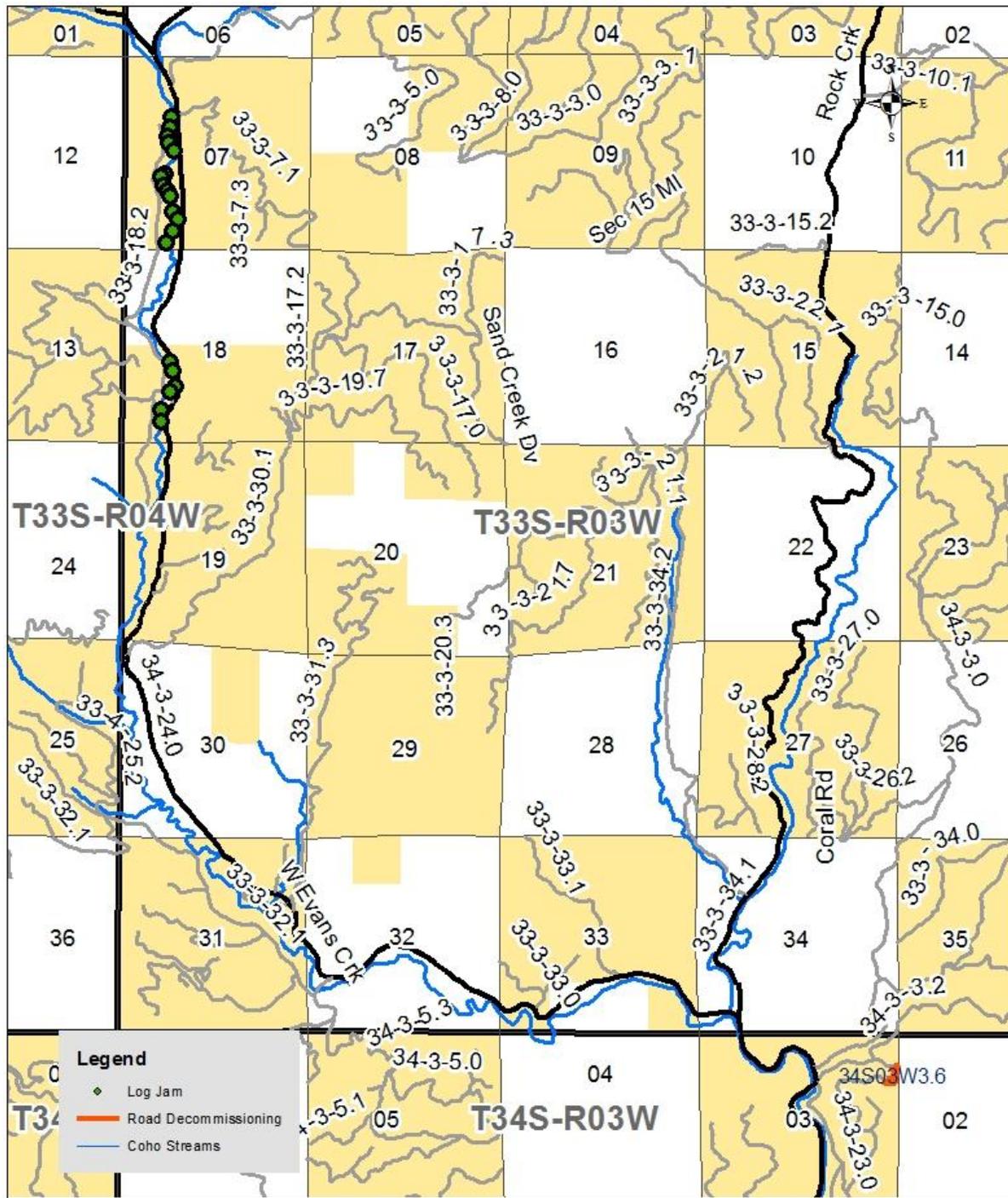
and Wildlife, and Seven Basins Watershed Council to improve stream channel conditions for Coho salmon and steelhead by improving stream habitat complexity and reducing fine sediment input into West Evans Creek.

All work will take place between July 1, 2013 and September 15, 2013.

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. There are 16 verified stream miles of Coho presence between the top of the project reach and the confluence with Evans Creek.

West Evans Creek has suitable habitat for Coho spawning and rearing, but lacks structural complexity. Adding log jams to West Evans Creek will provide cover, invertebrate habitat, high-flow refuge, sorted gravels, and deeper pools. The Upper West Evans and Lower West Evans subwatersheds have granitic soils which weather readily. The sand sized material fills in the gaps between spawning gravels, diminishing fish habitat. Natural surfaced roads that have not been maintained increase the input of fine sediments to creeks above natural levels. Decommissioning and closing these roads in West Evans Creek will decrease the rates of sedimentation in the drainage and improve conditions for fish and other aquatic fauna in the watershed.

NOTE: The *Revised Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Environmental Assessment* was developed to be consistent with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Endangered Species Act – Section 7 Programmatic Consultation Biological and Conference Opinion (BO # 2008/03506) which expired upon receipt of NMFS Biological Opinion for Aquatic Restoration Activities in the States of Oregon and Washington #NWP 2013-9664. The Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion (BO # 2008/03506) is no longer valid. Therefore, this project was designed to be consistent with BO #NWP 2013-9664 and is also consistent with the *Revised Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA).



West Evans Restoration 2013

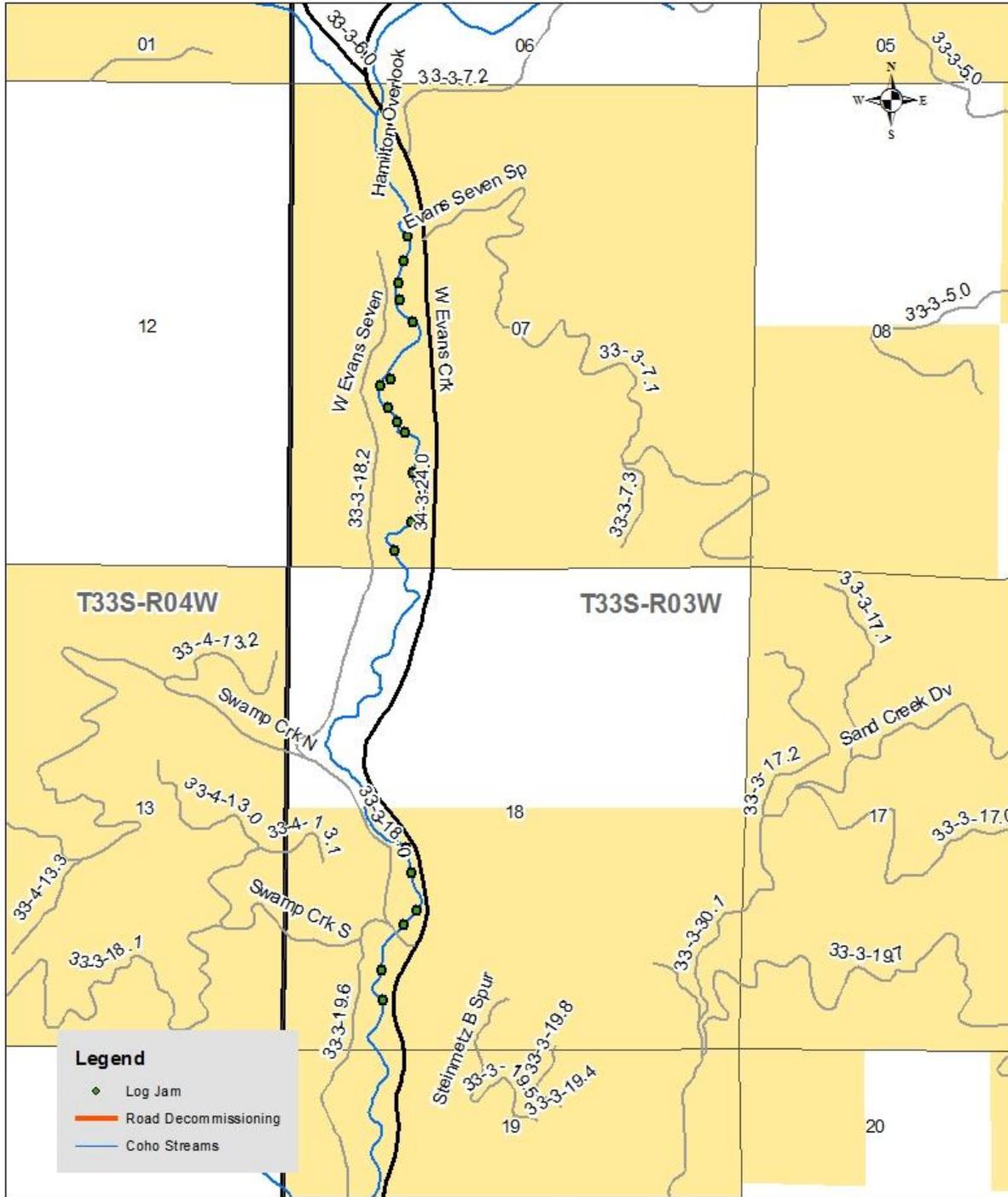


The content is made by the Bureau of Land Management as it is necessary to identify the ownership of these sites for the purpose of the project. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be subject to change without notice.

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Map 1 – Location Map



West Evans Restoration 2013

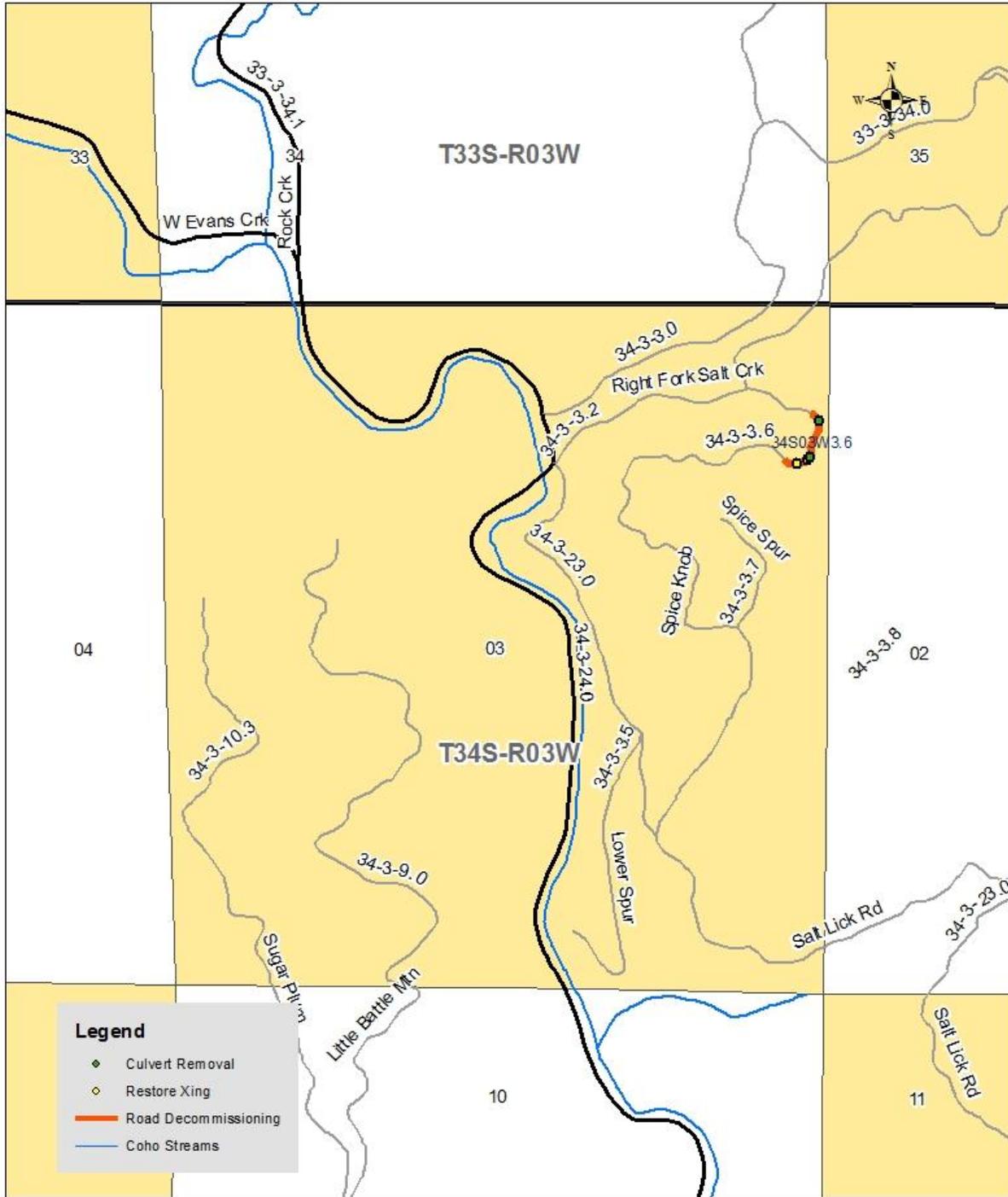


This map is made by the Bureau of Land Management as a necessary
 liability or engineering of this data for practical application
 with others. Original data were compiled from various sources and may
 be subject to change without notice.

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Map 2 – Large Wood Jam Sites



West Evans Restoration 2013



This document is made by the Bureau of Land Management as it is necessary to the availability or management of these lands for national or cooperative use or other uses. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be subject to change without notice.

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Map 3 Road Decommissioning

Project Design Features

The following project design features are included in the design of the projects. These project design features are a compilation of resource protection measures identified by the Interdisciplinary Team and Best Management Practices identified in the Medford District ROD/RMP and the Biological Opinion for Aquatic Restoration Activities in the States of Oregon and Washington #NWP_2013-9664. The BLM conducted a review and update of the Best Management Practices in 2011 to provide direction regarding road maintenance practices and road-related actions with the intention to minimize or prevent sediment delivery to waters of the United States in compliance with the Clean Water Act (IM-OR-2011-018). Those Best Management Practices were incorporated into the Medford District RMP to minimize or reduce the conveyance and delivery of sediment to the waters of the United States.

Riparian Reserves

- All in-stream work will occur within the instream work period (between June 15 and September 15) of the same year in accordance with State of Oregon regulations.
- Trees felled will be in stands identified as fully stocked and will not reduce effective shade on West Evans Creek by more than 10 percent.

Soil and Hydrology

- No mechanized equipment will leave existing roads or existing landings.
- Only existing roads will be used.
- Restrict use of equipment, other than transportation along rocked roads, during periods of wet conditions to prevent road damage and transport of sediment to nearby stream channels between October 15 and May 15.
- Decommissioned road will have stream crossings returned to their natural stream gradient. Sideslopes would be excavated back to straight or slightly concave profile less than 50 percent gradient, and where possible to the original sideslope gradient. Reestablish floodplains to the original bankfull height.
- Place excavated material from the stream crossings in a stable location (out of the flood-prone area) where it will not reenter the stream.

Wildlife

- No work from March 1 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to nesting Northern Spotted Owls.

Fuel Hazard Reduction

- Follow Oregon State laws for fire precautions and ensure proper fire prevention equipment is on-site.

Special Status Plants

- No trees with special status nonvascular plants will be felled.

- Protect known special status vascular plant, lichen, bryophyte, and fungi sites using no entry buffers. Determine buffers based on species, proposed treatment, site-specific environmental conditions, and available management recommendations.

Noxious Weeds

- All heavy equipment will be pressured wash, including undercarriages, before initial move-in and prior to all subsequent move-ins into the project area to remove soil and plant parts to 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.
- Only equipment visually inspected for weeds by a qualified BLM specialist will be allowed to operate within the project area, or in the immediate vicinity of the project area. All subsequent move-ins of equipment will be treated the same as the initial move-in.
- Seed and mulch LWD placement access sites and road decommission site using native seed and weed-free straw after final disturbance.

Archaeology

- Apply mitigating measures to areas containing known archaeological sites. Buffers sites based on proposed treatment, site-specific environmental conditions, and protection recommendations.
- Operator must stop work and notify the BLM within 12 hours if an archaeological site is discovered during the project.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This proposal is in conformance with objectives, land use allocations, and management direction in the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 ROD/RMP) and any plan amendments in effect at the time this document is published.

This project also conforms with the 1994 *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)

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, LOC#13420-2009-

1-0045, and LOC#13420-2008-1-0136 and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion for Aquatic Restoration Activities in the States of Oregon and Washington #NWP_2013-9664.

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 West Evans 2013 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 in-stream and off-channel habitat that would benefit fish and other aquatic fauna. The West Evans project will result in the placement of 20 total fish habitat structures along 1.4 miles of stream, 14 log jams along 0.9 miles of stream in section 7 and 6 log jams along 0.5 miles of stream in section 18.

Decommissioning road 34S-3W-3.6 road (0.2 miles) meets the objectives for road and culvert projects identified in the EA, page 8: “Road improvements aim to reduce existing erosion from road surfaces, cut banks and fill slopes, and reduce probability of failure via improvement of road surface stability and drainage. Culvert removal or replacement seeks to reduce sediment production and increase aquatic and hydrologic connectivity”.

Road decommission objectives include: “improve water quality by reducing short and long term road related sediment; restore hydrological processes modified by water routing and compaction; reduce road maintenance cost; and reduce impacts to aquatic and wildlife resources” (EA p.8).

The proposed action is on BLM-administered land, Medford District, Butte Falls Resource Area. The Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement 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 identified action 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 project and determined no significant changes in circumstances or significant new information has occurred since the EA was written. All surveys will be completed for plants, wildlife, and cultural resources at the proposed sites prior to implementation. If listed species are present at a project site or area, that site will be protected as consistent with the most recent Medford District protocols. Project implementation will not change but maybe reduced in scope, and therefore would not substantially affect the analysis.

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. *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	DR	6/11/13
Lisa Rice	Cultural Resources	LR	6/11/13
Jennifer Smith	Fisheries	JS	6/11/13
Alex Benavides	Hydrology	CBS	6/12/13
Amy Meredith	Soil	AM	6/10/13
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	mw	6/10/13
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	JW	6/13/2013
Jeff Brown ^{AL} ^{LEO KALUELS}	Engineering/Roads	LK	6-13-13
Trish Lindaman	Recreation	TL	6/12/13
Nick McDaniel	Forester	NM	6/12/13

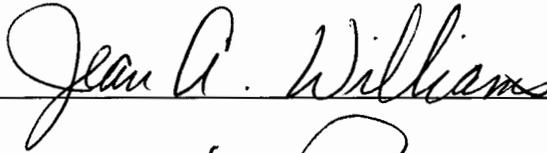
Conclusion

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.

Alex Benavides, Project Lead



Jean Williams, NEPA Coordinator



Jon K. Raby, Field Manager, Butte Falls Resource Area



6/13/13

Date