

## Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

### U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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**Office:** Medford District, Ashland Resource Area

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Lost Creek Restoration placing wood in stream

**Project Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0021-DNA

**Location/Legal Description:** T. 37 S., R. 2 E., Section 09

#### **A. Describe the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures.**

The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to implement the Lost Creek Restoration Project during the summer of 2012. The project would place 40 pieces of large wood into a half mile long reach of lower Lost Creek in T37S- R2E -S09. Pieces would be obtained through pulling 10 blow down trees and falling 10 snags and dying hazard trees from along the Conde Creek Road road (T38S-R3E- S05), bucking them into 40' pieces, and transporting and placing the pieces into Lost Creek to increase the amount of large wood in the stream. Additionally, there are two large dead trees adjacent to the channel that may be pulled into the stream if funding and operational feasibility allows it. All instream work would be conducted from an established road (37-2E-3) located from 60 to 500 feet from the channel, and would utilize a cable yarder with block and tackle to drag the trees into the wetted channel of Lost Creek. A small rubber tired skidder may use existing skid trails to pull the blow down pieces to the paved Conde Creek Road (< 200' away from the blow down and snag patch). No heavy equipment will leave the road prism to place wood into Lost Creek. Trees range in size from 30 to greater than 40 inches at DBH, and intact bole lengths, as measured from the root mass, range from 40 to 140 feet in length. Pieces would be placed parallel to stream flow, or incorporated into existing debris jams. Pieces not incorporated into existing jams would be anchored into bank side trees, which are large mature conifers. The proposed restoration project is entirely on BLM lands.

The location of the project is within the Lost Creek drainage (HUC # 17100307080636), Little Butte Creek fifth field Watershed, Upper Rogue River Subbasin of southwest Oregon, Jackson County. The Public Land Survey System description is: T. 37 R. 2E, Sec. 09, SW 1/4 (see attached map). The BLM intends to start the project during the in-stream work period of 2012, between June 15 and September 15.

The lower 2 miles of Lost Creek supports populations of coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. This reach is designated Coho Critical and Essential Fish habitat for coho, which are listed as "threatened". This project is covered under the Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion released by the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008, and hence meets section 7 consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

Aquatic habitat in the Lost Creek drainage was analyzed in the Little Butte Creek Watershed Analysis, as required by the Northwest Forest Plan as part of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). The ACS objectives address restoration activities to enhance watershed function. This project is the type of restoration envisioned to help meet ACS objectives, and would benefit aquatic habitat conditions within the watershed.

The proposed action will incorporate all appropriate project design features included in the Environmental Assessment for the *Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement* (April 2009).

### **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

**LUP Name:** Medford District Resource Management Plan/ROD

**Date Approved:** August 1995

The proposed action is in compliance with the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan, which incorporated the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan was later amended by the 2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines.

This proposed action is consistent with the 2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001 ROD), as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

The proposed action is also in conformance 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), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as Amended (NHPA).

### **C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

The following documents cover the proposed action:

-Revised Environmental Assessment for Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement, DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA, June 2010

-Decision Record for the Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA, June 9, 2010

-The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife' *Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams* (1995) and *Habitat Restoration Guide* (1999).

-The Decision Record, signed 6/5/98, for the *Integrated Weed Management Plan* with the associated FONSI and Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan.

-The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion (#13420-2007-F-0055) and Letter of Concurrence (#13420-2008-1-0136) for *Programmatic Aquatic Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington that Affect ESA-listed Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species and their Critical Habitats*.

-The National Marine Fisheries Service' *Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion* (2008).

#### D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

**1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action within the same analysis area of the previously analyzed project?** The *Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement EA*, listed above, analyzed programmatically a suite of activities for maintaining and restoring watershed conditions, including large wood placement for stream enhancement, across the Medford District BLM. This site-specific project is implementing wood placement for stream enhancement, and project design features required under the above referenced EA are included in this project.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?** The range of alternatives analyzed in the above Environmental Assessment document is appropriate with respect to the current proposed action.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?** This project is consistent with the suite of activities analyzed in the above referenced EA (p. 6-7). The ID Team planning and overseeing the implementation of this site-specific project reviewed the anticipated effects of this project against those documented in the above referenced EA and found the existing analysis to be valid for this proposed action. No new information exists.

**4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?** The interdisciplinary team approach was used in evaluating the proposed action. The present methodology continues to be appropriate, because the action is the same.

**5. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action similar to those identified in the existing NEPA documents?** The ID Team planning and overseeing the implementation of this site-specific project reviewed the anticipated effects of this project against those documented in the above referenced EA and the effects disclosed are the same as those identified and analyzed. No new information or circumstances would affect the predicted environmental impacts as stated in the above referenced EA.

**7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?** The above referenced EA was made available for public review on BLM's Medford District Website in March of 2009. This level of public and interagency review is adequate for the current proposed action.

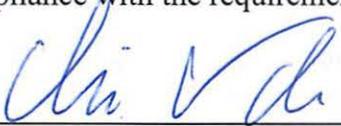
**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** This worksheet was distributed to the appropriate members of the Ashland Resource Area Interdisciplinary Team (table below) for review and input.

Name	Title	Resource
Ted Hass	Asst. Field Manager	NEPA consistency
Chamise Kramer	Botanist	Botany, Noxious Weeds
Steve Godwin	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Greg Chandler	Fuels Specialist	Fire and Fuels, Air Quality
Chris Volpe	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Amy Meredith	Soil Scientist	Soils

Name	Title	Resource
Michael Derrig	Hydrologist	Water Resources
Lisa Rice	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Kristi Mastrofini	Forest Manager	Vegetation Mgt.
John McNeel	Engineer	Transportation Systems
Dennis Byrd	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Steve Slavik	Range Conservationist	Range

### Conclusion

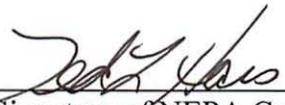
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



6/12/12

Signature of Project Lead

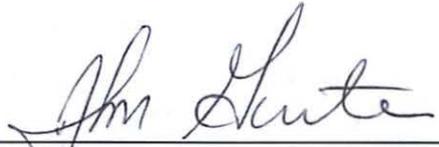
Date



6/12/12

Signature of NEPA Coordinator

Date



6/12/12

Signature of the Responsible Official

Date

**Note:** The signed *Conclusion* on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

