

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

**DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0008-DNA**

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**Office:** Medford District Office, Butte Falls Resource Area

**Tracking Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0008-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 – Rock  
Creek Area

**Location of Proposed Action:**

Township 33 South, Range 3 West, Sections, 27 and 31

Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon (see maps 1 through 3)

**A. Description of the Proposed Action**

Butte Falls Resource Area – Medford District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fall 53 trees into Rock Creek to create 18 fish habitat structures and add to 4 existing structures, along 1.0 miles of stream. Trees will be felled on top of one another to create or improve existing log jams. Tree diameters range from 8 to 30 inches with heights ranging from 40 to 130 feet.

The BLM proposes to decommission road 33S-3W-31.6 road (0.13 miles of road) – One culvert will be removed and road fill pulled back so as to recreate the natural drainage, the new channel will be armored with 2-inch minus rock.

The road will be closed with a double ditch-and-berm barrier. Material will be removed from the road surfaces to create the ditches and berms. Ditches will be the width of the road surface and approximately 10-feet long, and 5-feet deep.

Ground disturbed during the decommissioning process will be stabilized by reseeding with native seed, mulching, and covering with weed-free straw.

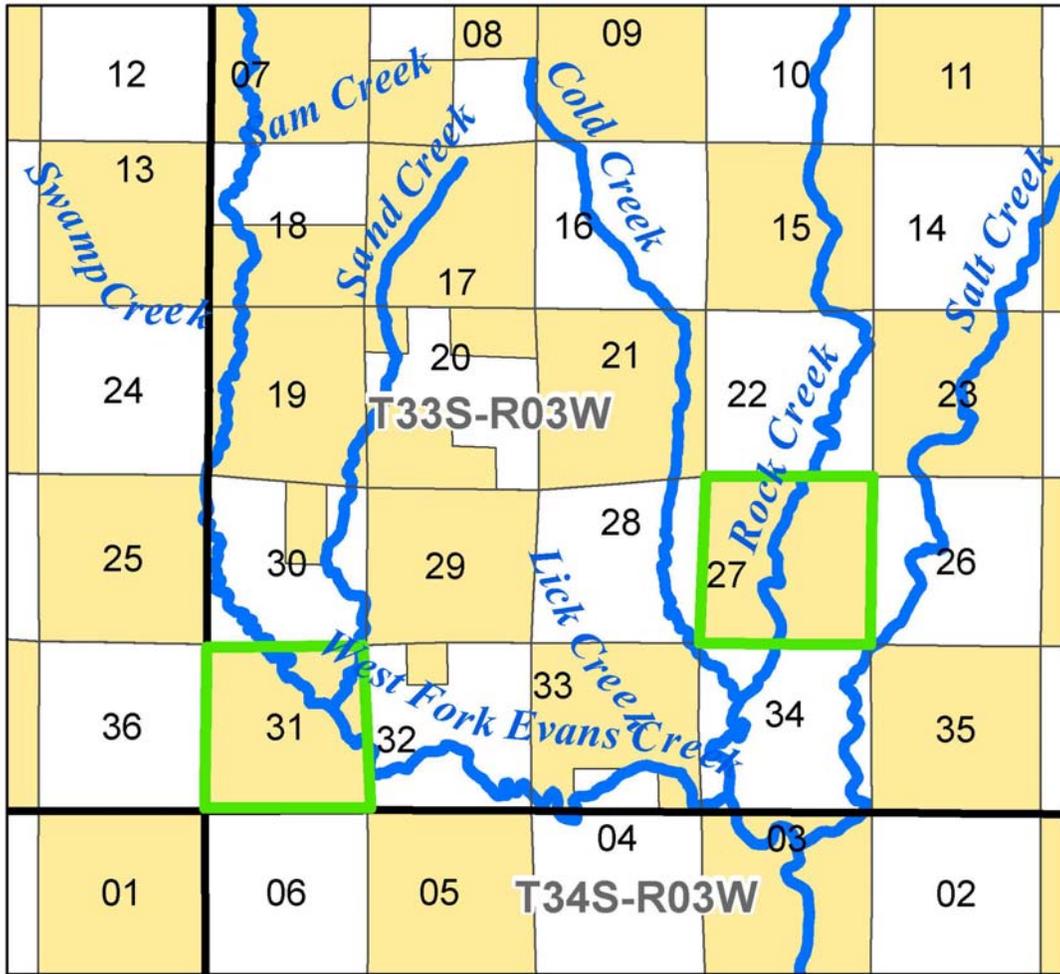
All activities will take place within the Upper West Evans and Lower West Evans subwatersheds. This project is part of a collaborative effort with Lone Rock Timber, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, and Seven Basins Watershed Council to improve 2.3 miles of stream channel habitat and decommission 2.3 miles of road in these subwatersheds in 2012.

All work will take place between July 1, 2012 and September 15, 2012.

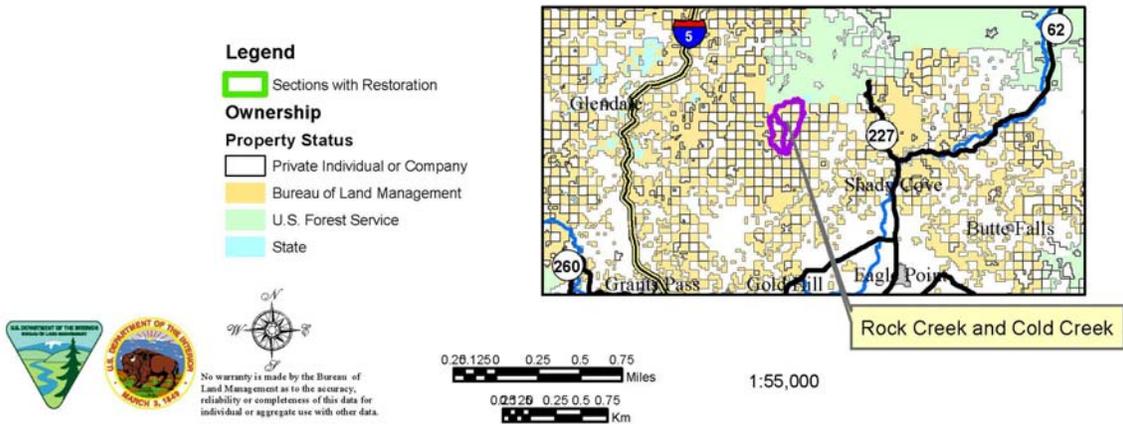
The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) division listed the Southern Oregon Northern California (SO/NC) Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in May 1997. As directed under ESA, NOAA Fisheries 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 5.7 verified stream miles of Coho presence between the Rock Creek and Cold Creek drainages, the primary streams benefiting from this project.

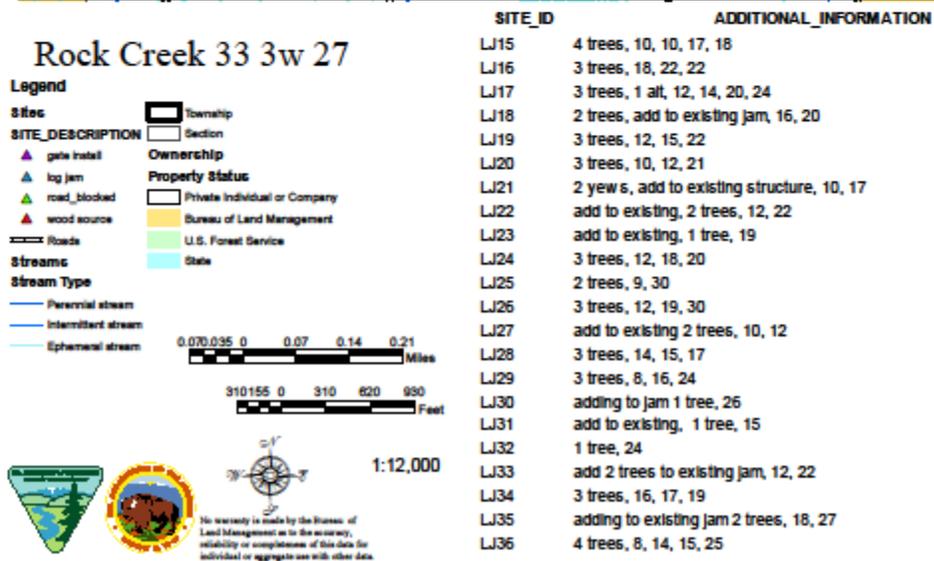
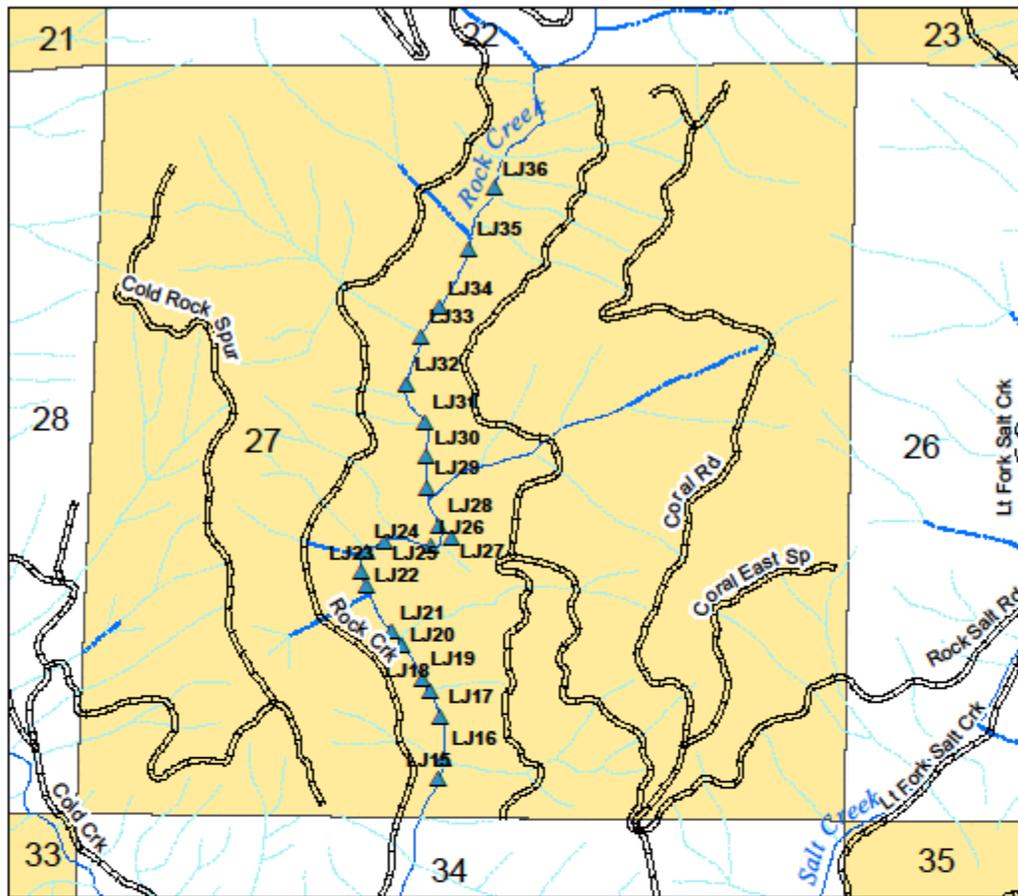
The purpose of this project is to increase stream habitat complexity and reduce sediment contribution from roads in the Evans Creek fifth field watershed. Lower Rock Creek has suitable habitat for Coho spawning and rearing, but lacks structural complexity. Adding log jams to Rock Creek will provide cover, 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.



Rock Creek Restoration Location Map

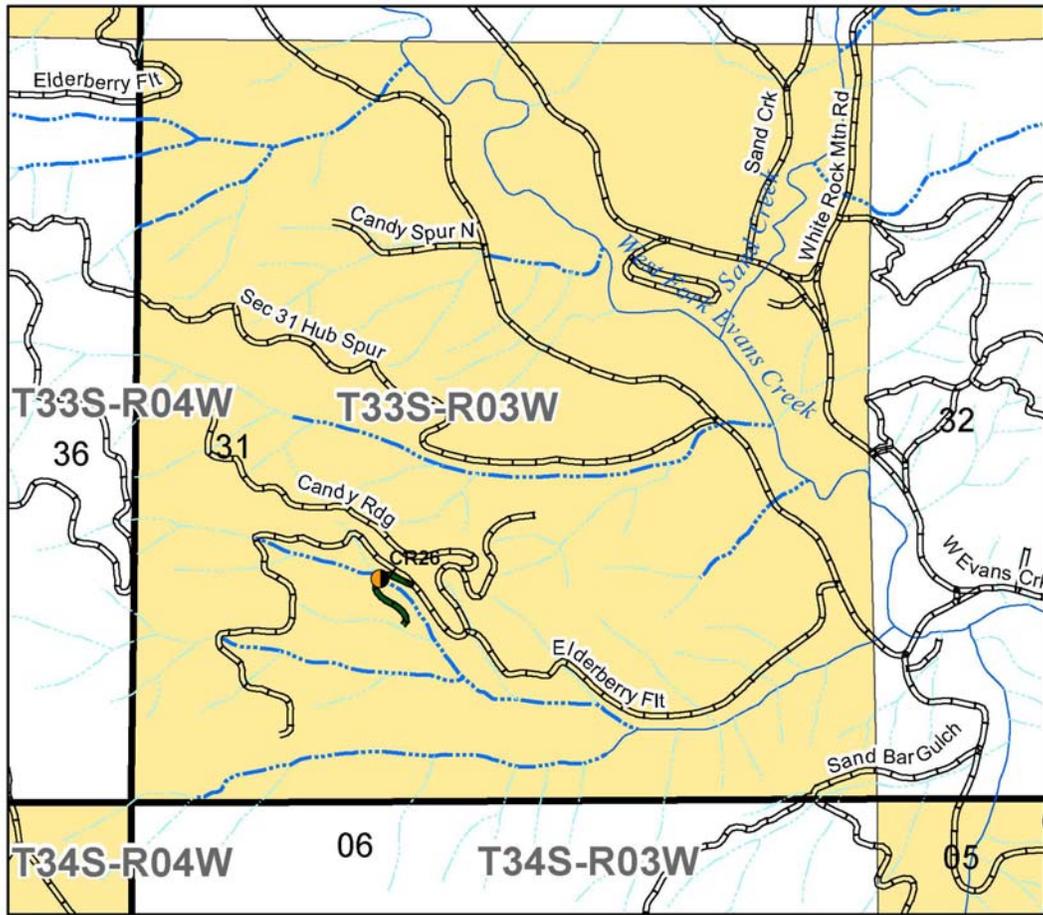


Map 1



Map 2

Determination of NEPA Adequacy for Rock Creek Stream Restoration and Road Decommissioning Project  
 July 2012



DECOMMISSION_LVL	DESCRIPTION	GIS_Miles
blocked and culverts pulled	only culvert	0.131077

**Legend**

<b>Culvert Removal</b>	recontoured and culverts pulled	Township
<b>DEPTH</b>	culverts pulled	Section
0-5 feet depth	blocked and culverts pulled	<b>Ownership</b>
5-10 feet depth		<b>Property Status</b>
10-15 feet depth	<b>Streams</b>	Private Individual or Company
15-20 feet depth	<b>Stream Type</b>	Bureau of Land Management
20+ feet depth	Perennial stream	U.S. Forest Service
rest_opportunes_culv	Intermittent stream	State
rock_decom_priv	Ephemeral stream	
rock_decom		
Roads		



1:12,000

Map 3

## **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. 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**

- No in-stream work would occur between June 15 and September 15 of the same year in accordance with State of Oregon regulations.

### **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.
- Place weed-free straw bales at the toe of stream-adjacent sideslopes following culvert removal for streams with dry season flows.
- Return stream crossings 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 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 would 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 is 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.
- Make operator aware that they 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) BO #2008/03506, Biological Opinions/LOCs covering restoration projects.

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 Rock Creek 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. The Rock Creek project would fall 53 trees into Rock Creek to create 18 fish habitat structures and add to 4 existing structures, along 1.0 miles of stream.

Decommissioning road 33S-3W-31.6 road (0.13 mile) 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 were completed for plants, wildlife, and cultural resources at the proposed 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.

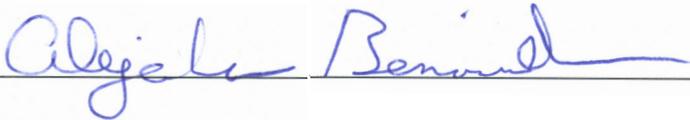
**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

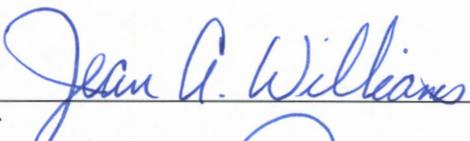
The following Butte Falls Resource Area resource specialists have reviewed this proposed action and have determined this action is covered in the *Revised Environmental Assessment for Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement* (DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0004-EA).

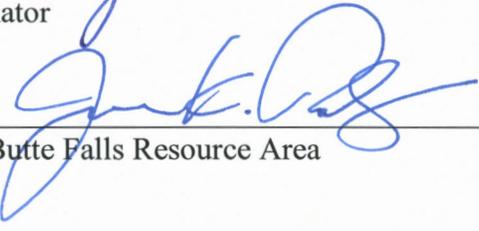
Name	Resource	Initials	Date
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Biologist	DR	7/16/12
<del>LISA RICE</del> <del>Cheryl Foster-Curley</del>	Cultural Resources	CR	7/17/12
Dale Johnson	Fisheries	DJ	7/16/12
Alex Benavides	Hydrology	AB	7/17/12
Amy Meredith	Soil	AM	7/16/12
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	MW	7/17/12
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	JW	7/23/12
Leo Kalvels	Engineering/Roads	LK	7-18-12

**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.

 7/23/12  
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Alex Benavides, Project Lead

 7/23/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Williams, NEPA Coordinator

 7/23/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon K. Raby, Field Manager, Butte Falls Resource Area      Date