

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

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0022-DNA

Office: Medford District, Butte Falls Resource Area

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0022-DNA

Casefile/Project Number: Ranch Stew II Environmental Assessment
EA# DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0001-EA

Proposed Action Title/Type: Ranch Stew II Road Decommissioning

Location/Legal Description: Township 35 South, Range 3 East, Section 5

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to decommission approximately 1.6 miles of roads in the Big Butte Creek Watershed to improve water infiltration, reduce sedimentation, reduce road density, and improve soil productivity. The proposal is to rip the roadbeds with a sub-soiler or wing toothed ripper to a depth of 18” to adequately ameliorate compaction. The roads would be seeded with native grass and planted to establish vegetation and reduce erosion. Native mulch would be applied where necessary to reduce erosion.

Project Design Features

Applicable project design features identified by the interdisciplinary team for the Ranch Stew II Environmental Assessment will be implemented in this project (EA p. 15-18).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

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

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- Focus watershed restoration on removing and upgrading roads (RMP p. 23)
- Closing and stabilizing, or obliterating and stabilizing roads based on the ongoing and potential effects to Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) and riparian reserve objectives and considering short-term and long-term transportation needs (RMP p. 28)

- Objective: To reduce soil compaction, minimize or reduce sedimentation, and improve site productivity by decommissioning roads and landings and rehabilitating the land. Practices: Return roads or landing not needed for future resource management to resource production by revegetating with native species. Apply mulch and fertilizer where appropriate (RMP p. 165).

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- *Ranch Stew II Environmental Assessment* (EA# DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0001-EA), April 21, 2010
- Central Big Butte Watershed Analysis, 1995
- Big Butte Creek Water Quality Restoration Plan, January 2008

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 of 1973 (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Clean Water Act of 1987 (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996) (SDWA), Clean Air Act of 1990 (CAA), Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), and Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? 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(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the proposed action of road decommissioning is analyzed in Alternative 2 of the *Ranch Stew II EA*. The proposed project is in the same analysis area as the Ranch Stew II project area. Several of the roads proposed to be decommissioned are adjacent to or within Ranch Stew units. Resource Conditions are similar to those identified in the EA.

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

The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing Ranch Stew II EA is appropriate with respect to the new proposed action because Alternative 2 meets the specific purposes of the project; improve water infiltration, reduce sedimentation, reduce road densities, and improve soil productivity. The current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are the same as in the Ranch Stew II EA.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, 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?

The existing analysis remains valid because there has been no new information or circumstances that would change the analysis. Road decommissioning is a common mitigation measure and restoration tool. New information or circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action.

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 direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from the proposed road decommissioning are similar to those analyzed in the Ranch Stew II EA. The methods of decommissioning would be the same as those analyzed in Ranch Stew II. While the total length of road to be decommissioned increases, the effects are within those previously analyzed.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The BLM initiated public scoping for the *Ranch Stew II EA* on October 26, 2009 by mailing 59 letters to adjacent landowners, businesses, organizations, tribes, government agencies, and other interested parties. The letter asked the recipient to identify any issues or concerns they may have with the project. In response, the BLM received two letters containing scoping comments. The scoping comments the BLM received from the public letters identified concerns with noxious weeds, thinning in Riparian Reserves, future snag recruitment, and thinning in northern spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging (NRF) habitat.

A formal comment period for the EA was held from March 12 to April 12, 2010. The BLM notified the public through a newspaper notice in the *Medford Mail Tribune* and a letter mailed to 11 individuals, organizations, and government entities. The EA was posted on the BLM website or mailed to the public at their request.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

The following Butte Falls Resource Area resource specialists have reviewed this proposed action and determined this action is covered in the *Ranch Stew II EA* DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0001-EA.

Name	Resource	Initials	Date
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife	DR	7/29/10
Ron Gregory	Cultural	R2G	8/5/10
Angela San Filippo	Fisheries	AS	7/27/10
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	SLS	7/27/10
Ken Van Etten	Soil	KBV	7/27/10
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	mw	8/3/10
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	JW	8/4/10
Trish Lindaman	Recreation	TL	7/27/10
Leo Kalvels	Engineering	LMK	7-28-10
Al Mason	Fuels	APM	8/2/10

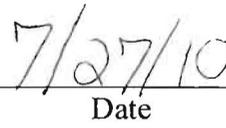
Note: Refer to the Ranch Stew II EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis.

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.



Shawn Simpson
Project Lead



Date



Jean Williams
NEPA Coordinator



Date



Jon K. Raby
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

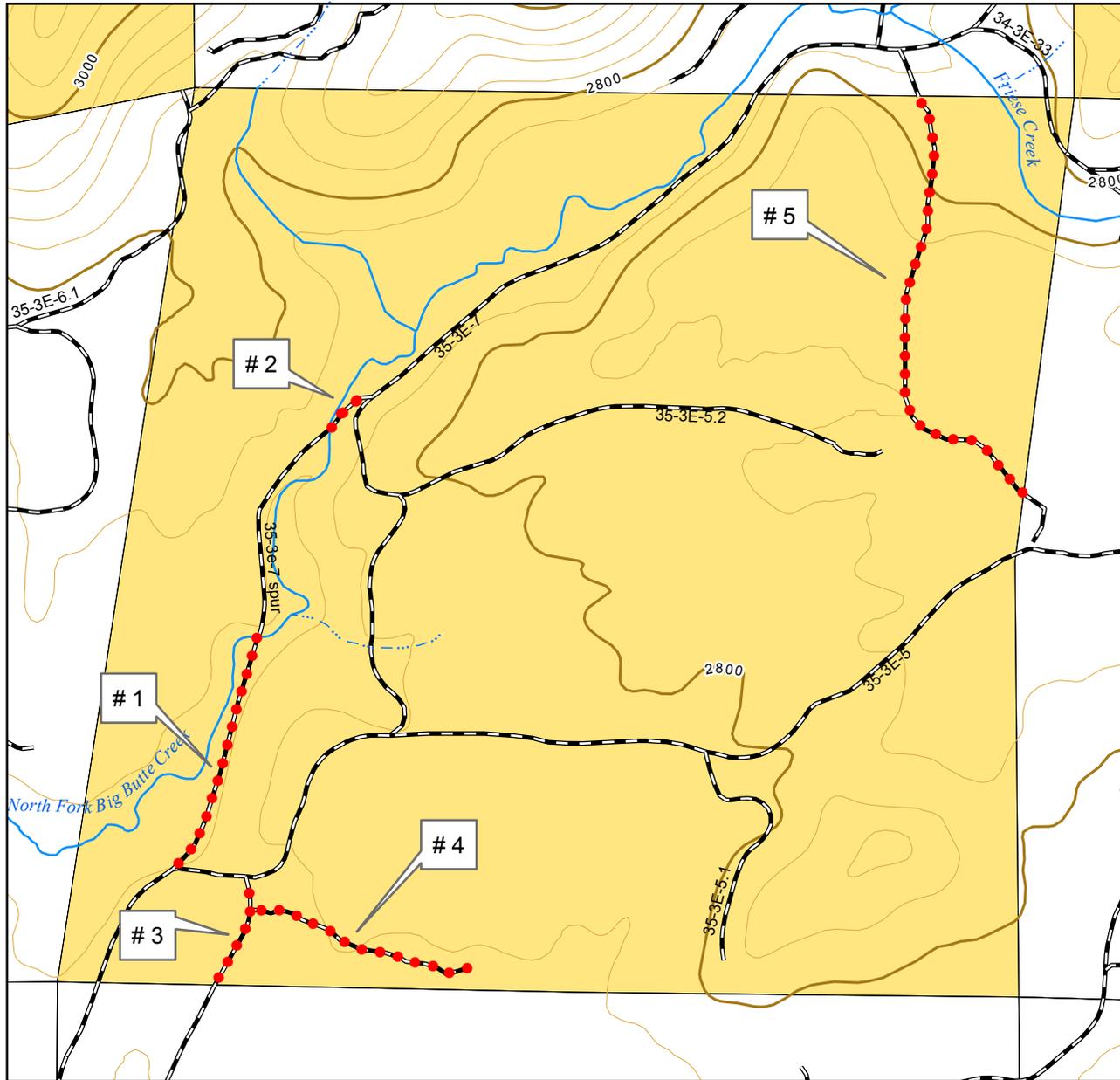


Date

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.

Ranch Stew Road Decommission

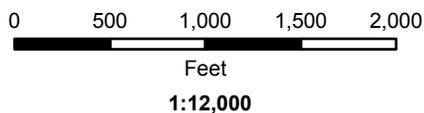
T35S R3E Sec 5



- 1 35-3E-7.00S (Medco RR Grade South)
- 2 35-3E-7.00N (Medco RR Grade North)
- 3 Road Sec. 5 SW (SW Spur)
- 4 Spur Sec. 5 SW (SW Loop Spur)
- 5 Road Sec. 5 NE (NE Connect Spur)
- 6 34-3E-29.07 (Old Jackass Creek)



MEDFORD DISTRICT
Butte Falls RA
July 2010



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**Rancheria / Jackass Creek Decommissioning
WORKLIST**

Decommission several spur roads (~1.89 miles).
 (Begin and End flagged with red and white, staked)
 Rip compacted skid trails /areas in several units (~15 acres).
 (Boundaries flagged with red)

1 **Road 35-3E-7.00S (Medco RR Grade South)** ASC.
 (Decommission. Waterbar. Barricade.)

MP **Remarks**

0.00 Jct. 35-3E-7.00

0.03 Existing culvet.

0.04 Construct barricade. Begin decommissioning. Waterbar as needed.

0.28 End decommissioning.

2 **Road 35-3E-7.00N (Medco RR Grade North)** ASC.
 (Decommission. Waterbar. Barricade (2).)

MP **Remarks**

0.00 Jct. 35-3E-7.00

0.01 Construct barricade. Begin decommissioning. Waterbar as needed.

0.04 End decommissioning. Construct barricade.

0.05 Existing wire gate.

3 **Road Sec. 5 SW (SW Spur)** NAT.
 (Decommission. Waterbar. Barricade (3).)

MP **Remarks**

0.00 Jct. 35-3E-7.00

0.01 Construct barricade. Begin decommissioning. Waterbar as needed.

0.03 Jct. Loop left, decommission.

0.12 Property line. Construct barricade. End decommissioning.

0.21 Construct barricade.

0.22 Jct. unnumbered spur (left).

