



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
GRANTS PASS INTERAGENCY OFFICE  
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GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526

## ROGUE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER HELLGATE RECREATION SECTION CORRIDOR RESTORATION PROJECT NEPA # DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2009-0012-EA

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The BLM's interdisciplinary planning team designed the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Corridor Restoration Project (Rogue River Corridor Restoration Project) based on current resource conditions in the project area and to meet the objectives and direction of the 1995 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995 ROD/RMP), the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). This project is designed to comply with and implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; the Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) (2004); and the Rogue River Comprehensive Management Plan (1972); and enforce the Prohibited Acts (Fed. Reg. Vol. 46, No. 107, 1981; Fed. Reg. Vol. 57, No. 110, Final Rule 1992).

The Rogue Corridor Restoration Project will improve, renovate, decommission or block old roads and trails on BLM lands within the River Corridor. Trails are restricted to use by hikers; no off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails will be developed (USDI 1972; RAMP p. 6); and some roads will be converted to foot trails. Fencing will be installed as appropriate to restrict access, and signage will be installed to better inform the public of restricted uses. Noxious weed control will occur in concert with these activities. Currently, there are at least 22 authorized access points to the river for people who cannot hike long distances, 13 accessible by car and two recreation areas that are handicap accessible; none of these will be closed or restricted. The proposal presented and evaluated in the Environmental Assessment (EA) reflects what the planning team believes to be the best balance of resource conditions and management direction from the above documents and to enforce the restrictions from the 1972 Rogue River Comprehensive Management Plan and the Prohibited Acts (1992).

As stated in the Environmental Assessment (EA pp. 9-11), the actions proposed and analyzed in the EA were developed to be consistent with, and/or tier to the following:

1. Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record Of Decision (ROD) for the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1995)
2. Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and EIS (2003); (RAMP) and ROD (2004)

3. Final Supplemental EIS (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994)
4. ROD for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled, Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (NWFP) (1994)
5. Record of Decision to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from The Bureau of Land Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, July, 2007
6. Medford District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (1998)
7. Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts (2004)
8. Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, Oregon: Notice of Revised Development and Management Plan (1972) (Federal Register Vol. 37, No. 131, 13408-13416)
9. Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Area Prohibited Acts (Fed. Reg. Vol. 46, No. 107, 1981; Final Rule: Fed. Reg. Vol. 57, No. 110, 1992)

On July 16, 2009, Ned Farquhar, Acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, withdrew the Records of Decision (2008 ROD) for the Western Oregon Plan Revision and directed the BLM to implement actions in conformance with the resource management plans for western Oregon that were in place prior to December 30, 2008. The RMP in place for the Medford District BLM prior to December 30, 2008 was the 1995 RMP.

In the EA (p. 9), we explained that “this project conforms with the 2008 RMP. However, the 2008 RMP allowed projects that were in process at the time it was signed to proceed and be consistent with the 1995 RMP. This is one of those projects.” However, in accordance with the withdrawal of the 2008 ROD, the EA’s tiering references to the 2008 RMP are no longer pertinent. Since project planning and preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for this project began prior to the effective date of the 2008 ROD, this project was designed to comply with the land use allocations, management direction, and objectives of the 1995 resource management plan (EA, P. 6; 9-11). The analysis in the EA is consistent with the Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, October, 1994 (EA p. 9) and the EA uses the land allocations from the 1995 RMP (pp. 24-40).

The Rogue River Corridor Restoration Project is designed to comply with and implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; the Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) (2004); and the Rogue River Comprehensive Management Plan (1972); and enforce the Prohibited Acts (Fed. Reg. Vol. 46, No. 107, 1981; Fed. Reg. Vol. 57, No. 110, Final Rule 1992). These documents provide direction for resource and recreation management within the Hellgate Recreation Area of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The project is designed to move the current conditions found in the Rogue River Corridor toward the desired conditions and uses in compliance with the above decisions. The focus of this project is to implement management direction from the above documents and to enforce the restrictions from the 1972 Comprehensive Management Plan and the Prohibited Acts (1992). See section 1.4 below for details on this management direction.

The implementation of this project will not have significant environmental effects beyond those already identified in the 1994 Final EIS/Proposed RMP, or are otherwise not significant (See Finding of No Significant Impact, attached). The proposed action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effects on the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The Hellgate Recreation Area is the first 27 miles of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River and is classified as a recreational river area. It is managed under the July 2004 Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), which is consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) and various environmental documents as outlined above.

From the beginning of project development, the scope of the project was constrained by the WSRA, the 1972 Revised Development and Management Plan, the Prohibited Acts (1992) and the RAMP. It was beyond the scope of the EA to revisit congressional mandates or decisions made in these previous documents. In designing the project to address current resource conditions, the BLM interdisciplinary team was aware of and sensitive to the range of views and values of the public while complying with a variety of resource management mandates.

Planning and public involvement for the Rogue Corridor Restoration Project began in 2009 with a scoping letter being sent to residents and landowners near or adjacent to BLM parcels within the planning area; to federal, state, and county agencies; and to tribal and private organizations and individuals that requested information concerning projects of this type. All public input was considered by the interdisciplinary planning team in developing the proposals and in preparation of the EA.

The Rogue Corridor Restoration Project EA was available for public review from June 24 through July 24, 2009. The EA incorporated analysis of the proposed actions; addressed issues raised in public scoping comments, and referenced new information. During the comment period, one written comment was received and conversations were had with several additional people. Two additional written comments were received after the comment period. Most comments were supportive of the project, one asked about existing right-of-ways and some phone conversations were conducted with individual landowners asking about trails near their property.

The primary objective identified for lands in the project area is the need to restrict unauthorized uses and provide protection and enhancement of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) for which the river was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The RAMP (pp. 2-13) provides management guidance and direction within the Rogue National Wild and Scenic corridor to:

1) Manage trails:

- the trail system will be restricted to hikers only; and
- vehicles are prohibited off existing roads except for access on designated gravel bars

2) Protect soil and the watershed:

- Stabilize or revegetate all areas of exposed soils caused naturally or by human activities with special emphasis on preventing and controlling soil erosion near the water's edge.

3) Manage the resources to protect the aesthetic and recreation qualities of the area visible from the river or trail.

Objectives for this project include reducing unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, which is prohibited off of existing roads in the river corridor (Federal Register Vol. 57, No. 110, 24271-24272, Prohibited Acts (1992)). These prohibited acts also include prohibitions on constructing or maintaining any kind of road or trail without BLM authorization. The project will also be consistent with management direction for the overlapping land allocations (e.g. riparian management areas). (EA p. 7)

### III. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BLM completed consultation as necessary with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the activities addressed in this decision. Because there will be limited or no vegetation work, and no Threatened and Endangered (T&E) wildlife species are in the project area (EA p. 52), this project is “no effect” to listed or proposed T&E wildlife species.

In accordance with section 7 of the ESA, the BLM analyzed project activities for their potential to affect the following plant species; the endangered Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*) endangered Cook's lomatium (*Lomatium cookii*), endangered large-flowered woolly meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa ssp. grandiflora*), and McDonald's rockcress (*Arabis macdonaldiana*). In September 2008, BLM prepared a BA to evaluate impacts to listed plant species. In September 2008 the USFWS gave BLM a letter of concurrence (LOC) (Tails # 13420-2008-I-0136). The BLM is implementing all applicable PDCs in accordance with the mandatory terms and conditions as specified in the LOC. The Service stated that the proposed action will not jeopardize the continued existence of ESA listed species.

In accordance with section 7 of the ESA, the BLM analyzed project activities for their potential to affect Southern Oregon/Northern California (SONC) coho salmon or their designated critical habitat. The BLM also analyzed these activities for their potential to affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

Noncommercial activities were included under the consultation previously completed for programmatic activities (NMFS, Northwest Region, August 8, 2001, as amended October 18, 2002 and May 21, 2003). All actions in this decision are No Affect for SONC, or for Essential Fish Habitat in accordance with the MSA.

Based on surveys, the project will not adversely impact any sites of cultural or historical significance. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was informed of the BLM's finding in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Grande Ronde, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians were notified of this project during scoping and the EA's public comment period. Josephine County Commissioners and the Josephine County Forestry Department were also contacted.

#### **IV. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

##### **A. Plan Conformance**

Based on the information in the Rogue River Corridor Restoration Project EA, in the record, and from the letters and comments received from the public about the project, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan and EIS (2003) (RAMP) and ROD (2004), and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) and other plans and plan amendments which include:

1. Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts, May, 2004.
2. Medford District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (1998)
3. Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, Oregon: Notice of Revised Development and Management Plan (1972) (Federal Register Vol. 37, No. 131, 13408-13416)

The decision is also consistent with the following:

- Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994)
- ROD for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled 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 (NWFP) (1994)
- Record of Decision to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from The Bureau of Land Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, July, 2007.

The ACS Consistency Review (Appendix A) found that the project is in compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy as developed under the Northwest Forest Plan.

This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act; the Native American Religious Freedom Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; and Executive Order 13212 regarding potential adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

This decision will not have any adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution (per Executive Order 13212).

## **B. Finding of No Significant Impact**

I have considered the intensity of the impacts anticipated and disclosed in the EA from the Rogue River Restoration Corridor Project decision relative to each of the ten areas suggested by the CEQ. With regard to each:

*1) Impacts can be both beneficial and adverse and a significant effect may exist regardless of the perceived balance of effects.* Project design features (PDFs) are included in the proposed actions for the purpose of reducing anticipated adverse environmental impacts which might otherwise result from project implementation. The following is a synopsis of the effects expected from implementation of activities detailed in the Decision Record.

The assessment has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts. None of the individual or cumulative effects have been identified as being significant or outside of the scope of the management plans to which the project EA is tiered. Recreation opportunities will be enhanced by maintenance activities with short term displacement of users during implementation (EA p.27). Restoration of disturbed sites will further protect and enhance the Natural Scenic Quality (ORV) (EA p.29). While decommissioning of roads and trails would decrease access points, adequate level of access would be provided to allow river visitors to experience the river as a Recreation Section Wild and Scenic River, as stipulated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. There is an anticipated improvement in recreational experiences and no adverse impacts will degrade economic benefits provided by river activities (EA p.31). Soil and water resources will benefit from reduced compaction and erosion (EA p.36). Fisheries resources will improve in the long term from a decrease in sediment input (EA p.39). There are no T&E species in the project area. Bureau Sensitive Species will be buffered to protect sites therefore; botanical resources will be protected (EA p.46). Reductions in unauthorized trail use will reduce the chance of weed spread (EA p.46). The decrease in unauthorized OHV use within the project area will be beneficial to Special Status wildlife species and other activities will be beneficial or neutral (EA p.54). Cultural Resources will receive less damage from unauthorized OHV use once the project is implemented (EA p. 55).

*2) The degree of the impact on public health or safety.* No aspects of the project have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact public health and safety. The improvements, renovations, and decommissioning or blocking of old roads and trails on BLM lands within the River Corridor will improve public safety by reducing user conflicts.

*3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area.* As noted above, the Rogue River Corridor

Restoration Project is within the congressionally designated boundary of the Hellgate Recreation Section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River. It is clearly a unique and valued area with identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values. The project will result in actions that will affect positive change in existing conditions in the river corridor, and protect and enhance the values in both in the short and the long term.

*4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial effects.* Although some level of controversy exists around the use of OHV's and motorized vehicle access in the river corridor, the decision does not change designations or restriction on use. The decision to prohibit OHV use in the Rogue River Corridor was made in the Rogue River Comprehensive Management Plan (1972) and Prohibited Acts, Final Rule (1992) for the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, which prohibit operating motorized vehicles off roads within the Rogue River corridor, and prohibits constructing or maintaining any kind of road or trail without BLM authorization. The 2004 Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate RAMP reinforced the decisions made in these documents.

*5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are likely to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.* The analysis does not show that this action will involve any unique or unknown risks.

*6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.* The action and the decision will not set any precedents for future actions with significant effects. This decision implements existing management plans in particular the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate RAMP and the Rogue River Comprehensive Management Plan (1972). Any future projects will be evaluated through the National Environmental Policy Act process and will stand on their own as to environmental effects.

*7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.* No significant cumulative effects have been identified through the EA analysis. Analyses were performed for each resource at multiple scales and included current conditions, proposed actions, and foreseeable actions. Any future projects in the area would be analyzed for cumulative effects in light of this project as appropriate for each resource.

*8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect National Historic Register listed or eligible to be listed sites or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources.* The project is situated in an area that has a rich cultural history and there are cultural sites eligible for listing on the National Historic Register within the project area. Project activities are expected to reduce the chance of future damage to cultural resources and cultural resource sites within the project area will be protected with project design features (EA section 2.3.2).. No project or cumulative impacts on cultural resources are expected (EA p.55).

*9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect ESA listed species or critical habitat.* No botanical T&E species were identified in the project area during surveys. *Fritillaria gentneri* habitat that requires second year surveys are excluded from this Record of Decision. No T&E wildlife species are located within the project boundaries. The Whitehorse Park bird watching

area will be protected per project design features (EA section 2.3.5) which would avoid any vegetative disturbing activities within the park during the nesting season resulting in beneficial or no impact on special status species. .

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of environmental protection law or requirements.*  
There is no indication that this decision will result in actions that will threaten a violation of any environmental laws.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on information in the EA and comments received from the public, it is my determination that this decision will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Anticipated impacts are within the range of effects addressed by the Environmental Impact Statements for the Medford District RMP (1995) and the Northwest Forest Plan or are otherwise not significant. Thus, the Rogue River Corridor Restoration project does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment and an EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This conclusion is based on my consideration of the CEQ's criteria for significance (40 CFR §1508.27), regarding context and intensity of the impacts described in the EA and on my understanding of the project. The analysis of effects has also occurred in the context of multiple spatial and temporal scales as appropriate for different types of impacts. As noted above, the analysis of effects has been completed within the context of the Medford District RMP, the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). The analysis concluded the actions are consistent with the plans and the scope of effects anticipated from those plans.

  
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Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area  
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

9-22-09  
Date

## Appendix A. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Consistency Review

The Aquatic Conservation Strategy developed and identified nine objectives to maintain and restore the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within them on public lands. The strategy is designed to protect salmon and steelhead habitat on federal lands managed by the BLM within the range of the Pacific Ocean anadromy. The components of the ACS are *riparian reserves, key watersheds, watershed analysis, and watershed restoration* (RMP p. 22).

The Rogue River Corridor Restoration Project was designed to protect and enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Value of fisheries (EA p. 8) under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The design and implementation of the project was planned for consistency with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy as detailed in the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District RMP.

The Environmental Assessment was developed following direction from the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River: Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) (2004) (pp. 2-13). RAMP direction includes protecting soil and the watershed. Watershed restoration is addressed in the Medford District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (USDI, BLM 1995a (ROD/RMP)) as one of the four components of the Northwest Forest Plan's Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). The ACS was developed to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within them on public lands.

The actions identified in the EA are consistent with the 1995 ROD/RMP management actions and objectives including: road/trail work, fencing, roadbed conversion to trails, signage installation and education, and noxious weed control. The objectives of road/trail work 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.

The proposed project would be consistent with actions identified by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (Fisheries BO 2008/03506) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (Wildlife BO #13420-2007-F-0055 and Plant LOC 13420-2008-1-0136) for Programmatic Consultation on Fish Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington.

The ability of treatments to meet and promote the ACS objectives below is used to evaluate the project actions.

### ACS Objectives

#### **1. Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.**

Proposed project activities would likely result in a positive impact on soils (e.g., reduced compaction and erosion) at the local scale. No negative cumulative effects were identified in the analysis of impacts to soil and water or to fish and aquatic habitats (EA

pp. 36- 40). Proposed activities would maintain and restore watershed and landscape-scale features.

**2. Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.**

In the long term, the proposed road and trail activities would decrease watershed drainage networks and reduce areas of soil compaction on approximately 20 acres. At the fifth field watershed scale, this would have a negligible but positive effect (EA p. 36).

**3. Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.**

Decommissioning roads and trails within riparian areas would restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system over the long term. Potential short term effects would be minimized through PDFs such as seasonal restrictions, erosion control measures and not decommissioning roads/trails within 50ft of stream crossings if slopes are >25% (EA pp. 38-39). No negative cumulative effects were identified in the analysis of impacts to soil and water or to fish and aquatic habitats (EA pp. 36- 40).

**4. Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.**

Objective 4 would continue to be met as water quality will be maintained as would the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system (EA pp. 36, 38-39). There would be no effect to survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities at both the project and watershed scale (EA pp. 38-39).

**5. Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.**

Potential short term effects of sediment routing to streams would be minimized through PDFs such as seasonal restrictions, erosion control measures and not decommissioning roads/trails within 50ft of stream crossings if slopes are >25%. Road and trail work would not likely deliver sediments to streams or the river. Activity-generated sediment in fish habitat would be undetectable.

In the long term, obliterating roads in riparian areas would decrease delivery of fine sediment to streams. Due to the small amount of trail miles immediately adjacent to streams and the large size of the river compared to project activity influences, the beneficial effects would likely be immeasurable against background sediment regimes in the Rogue River (EA p. 38-39).

**6. Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.**

There would be no effect on peak or base stream flows. The project would have no effect on instream flows or the timing, magnitude, duration, or spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows at both the project and watershed scale (EA pp. 36-39).

**7. Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.**

The project would have no effect on timing, variability or duration of floodplain inundation or water table levels at both the project and watershed scale (EA pp. 36-39).

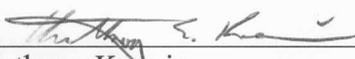
**8. Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.**

Noxious weed populations would be treated using IPM techniques based on the species, habitat, and environmental factors under the direction of the Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan (PA-OR110-98-14). The goal of IPM would be to maintain or develop ecologically healthy plant communities that are relatively weed resistant, while meeting other land-use objectives such as forage production, wildlife habitat development, native plant diversity, recreational land maintenance, and high intensity resistant area (EA pp. 8-9, 46).

**9. Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.**

Project activities such as road and trail decommissioning and noxious weed control would maintain or restore habitat to support riparian-dependent species (EA pp. 7-9, 36-39, 46).

Based on the review of project effects at both the site and watershed scale and objectives of the nine ACS objectives, we find that the Rogue River Corridor Restoration Project is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (RMP EIS Ch. 2-5).

  
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Anthony Kerwin  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

9/3/09  
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Date

  
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Sharon Frazey  
Fisheries Biologist

9/8/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

After reviewing the expected project effects and ACS consistency findings from the specialists, I find that this project is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Abbie Jossie  
Grants Pass Field Manager

9-9-09  
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Date