

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville

NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-ORP060-2010-0028-DNA

Location: The Steelhead Falls Trail is located approximately ¼ mile upriver from Steelhead Falls, within the Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and adjacent to Crooked River Ranch, Oregon. The legal description is T/13S., R.12 E., Sections 27, 28 W.M.

Proposed Action Title: Steelhead Falls Trail Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

The proposed actions are to 1) stabilize the trail tread in locations that are steep sloped, through rock placement and trail design; and 2) install approximately 75 feet of green plastic “construction” fencing to protect an eroding slope on the downhill side of the trail. The fence would limit user access points to a popular swimming, fishing and viewing area, while protecting a fragile slope long enough for native plants to re-vegetate the damaged area.

This trail maintenance will protect the Outstanding Remarkable Values of the Middle Deschutes Wild and Scenic River corridor and maintain or enhance the natural character of the Steelhead Falls WSA. Soil erosion and soil runoff damage is occurring, reducing the natural character of this WSA. Public safety is also compromised, due to high levels of trail erosion, which impact a horse or person’s ability to use the trail. Trail maintenance is needed to continue providing safe, sustainable access to this section of the river.

Mitigation Measures:

- The fence is non-permanent and can be removed once vegetation and natural barriers are in place, or upon wilderness designation;
- The fence color will have minimal impact on the visual resource
- Natural vegetation will be maintained between the fence and heavy use area
- Installation of the fence and trailhead stabilization would occur during a time not to interfere with raptor breeding/nesting activity.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Upper Deschutes RMP

Date approved (ROD): 9/2005

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

Objective SMA-4: Manage Wilderness Study Areas to maintain wilderness suitability consistent with the “Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review” (p. 71/UDRMP-ROD)

Land Use Plan Name: BLM Manual H-8550-1 Interim Management Plan for Wilderness Study Areas. Date approved: 7/1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the Interim Management Plan for Wilderness Study Areas, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions (objectives, terms, conditions):

“The general standard for interim management is that lands under wilderness review must be managed so their suitability for preservation as wilderness is not impaired...Activities that protect or enhance the land’s wilderness values or provide the minimum necessary facilities for public enjoyment of wilderness will be considered nonimpairing if it meets the following criteria:

- The use, facility, or activity must be temporary. This means a temporary use that does not create surface disturbance or involve permanent placement of facilities may be allowed if such use can easily and immediately be terminated upon wilderness designation.”

The Interim Mgmt. Plan also states that:

“No new, permanent recreational ways, trails, structures or installations will be permitted, except those that are the minimum necessary for public health and safety in the use and enjoyment of the public lands’ wilderness values, and that are necessary to protect wilderness resource values...”

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

The following NEPA documents (EA, DEIS, FEIS) cover the proposed action:

Middle Deschutes/Lower Crooked Wild and Scenic Rivers Management Plan EIS (1992)

Interim Management Plan for Wilderness Study Areas; BLM Manual H-8550-1 (7/1995)

Steelhead Falls Recreation Area Rehabilitation Project Environmental Assessment (OR-056-97-016)

Oregon State Scenic Waterway Act (1970)

Oregon Scenic Waterway Notification File No. 2A-141-03

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 maintenance of the Steelhead Falls Trail is substantially the same action as described in EA No. OR-056-97-016, which analyzed trail stabilization as a means to prevent impairment of wilderness resources.

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?

Yes. The analysis looked at a range of alternatives that would decrease resource degradation while increasing public safety. The No Action alternative in the existing NEPA would lead to continued resource damage.

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 all new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The existing analysis will continue to provide for maintenance of wilderness characteristics. In addition, related resource areas including wildlife, cultural, fisheries and botany have been consulted and concluded that no significant changes have occurred since EA No. OR-056-97-016 was completed. The proposed action would not have any adverse effects on wildlife, fisheries, botany, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River, archaeology or cultural resources.

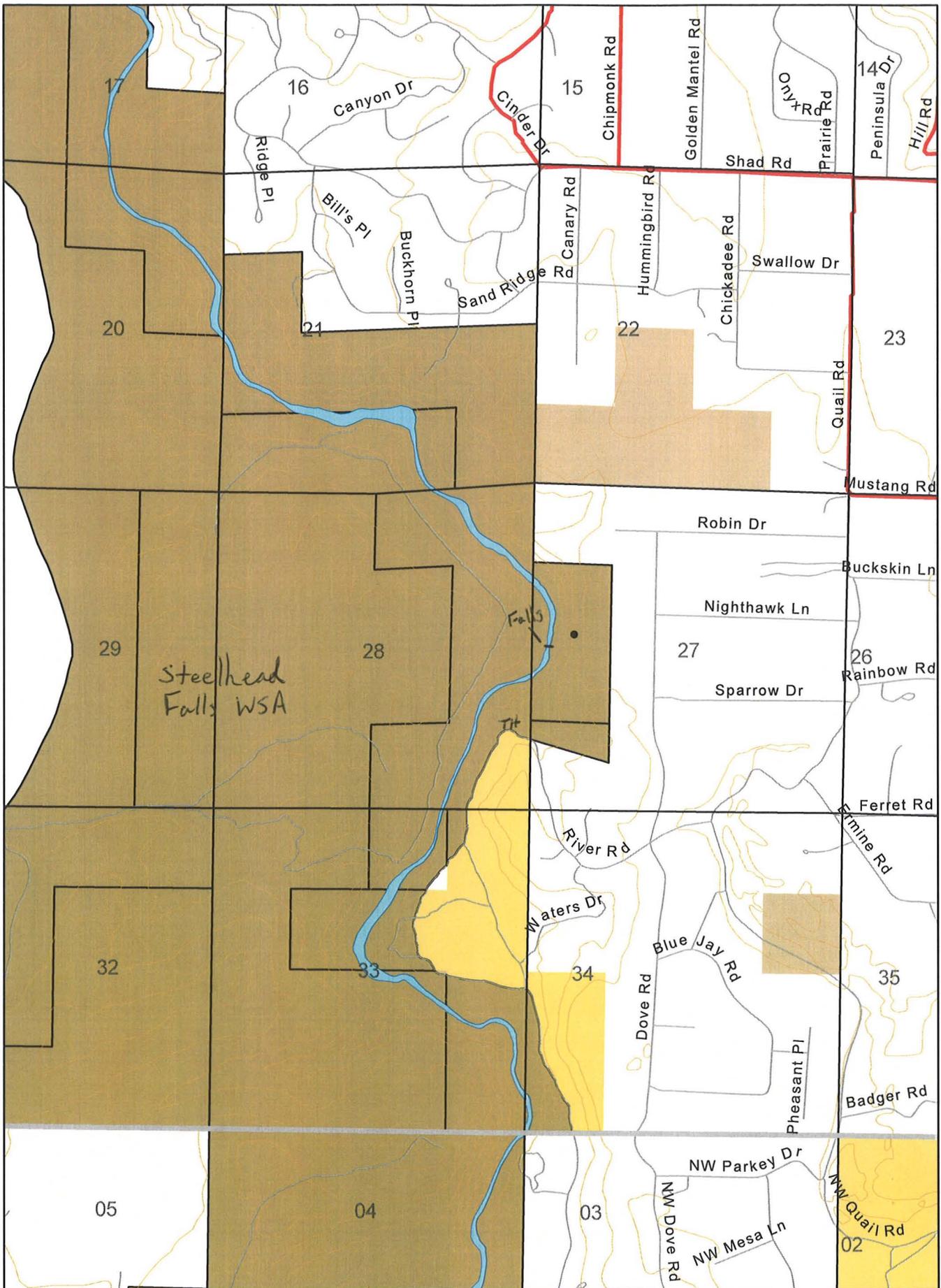
4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. The Steelhead Falls trail is located within the previously analyzed area in EA No. OR-056-97-016. Based on input from site specific surveys and information received in response to the original EA, site specific impacts have been sufficiently analyzed.

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

Yes. The original EA meets all the standards for public involvement and review.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff consulted



TH - Trail Head