

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ROSEBURG DISTRICT

**NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**Background:**

BLM Office: Roseburg District, South River Field Office  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd  
Roseburg, Oregon, 97471  
Phone: 541-464-4930

NEPA Document No. DOI-BLM-OR-R000-2013-0002-CX

**A. Proposed Action Title:**

Roseburg District Pump Chance and Heli-Pond Maintenance for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014

**Location of Proposed Action:**

Pump chances and heli-ponds (water impoundments) are located across the Roseburg District. Attachment A provides the names of the water impoundments proposed for maintenance in fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the location (Section, Township, and Range), land use allocation, and a brief description of work to be done specific to the individual water sources.

**B. Description of Proposed Action:**

Over the past 45 years, the Roseburg District has constructed a large number of water impoundments across district lands for the principal purpose of providing water for rapid suppression and extinction of wildfires. The Roseburg District manages these waters sources in cooperation with Douglas Forest Protective Association, Coos Forest Protective Association, and other land owners.

Regular and periodic maintenance of the water impoundments is required as: 1) sediment deposited in the water impoundments reduces storage capacity; 2) growth of brush impedes access by fire engines, water tenders and helicopter buckets; and 3), growth of trees and brush on water impoundment retaining walls/dikes may cause a breach with resultant loss of water-holding capacity.

Material to be removed would consist of shrubs, weeds and saplings. Brushing would be accomplished using brush mowers or chainsaws, and would include the removal of vegetation that blocks access roads, obstructs inlets and/or outlets, or interferes with water control devices (i.e. culverts and standpipes). Cut material would be chipped, lopped and scattered; piled and covered for burning; or hauled away. In general, brushing and or dredging work at any given impoundment would be completed in one or two days.

Dredging of accumulated sediment and debris may employ excavators, back-hoes or draglines operated from existing access roads or atop retaining walls/dikes. Dredging spoils would be disposed of in approved locations away from streams or other waterbodies, and mulched and seeded with a mixture of native grasses and forbs to reduce or eliminate the potential for erosion.

### Wildlife

No maintenance activities would be conducted within disruption thresholds of occupied nesting, roosting and foraging habitat (NRF habitat) for the threatened northern spotted owl, or suitable habitat for the threatened marbled murrelet. No impacts from habitat modification would occur. [Attachment B]

None of the proposed maintenance would occur within disruption thresholds for the golden eagle, bald eagle, or peregrine falcon which would require seasonal restriction of maintenance actions. [Attachment B]

The proposed maintenance of water impoundments is consistent with the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan as 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*.

Routine maintenance of existing structures and facilities is not considered a habitat-disturbing activity for species under the Survey & Manage Standards and Guidelines (2001 ROD/S&Gs, pg. 22). Therefore, pre-disturbance surveys are not required for the great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*), red tree vole (*Arborimus longicaudus*), Oregon shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta hertleini*), Chace sideband snail (*Monadenia chaceana*), and Crater Lake tightcoil snail (*Pristiloma articum crateris*) because the proposed maintenance of water impoundments would not be a habitat-disturbing activity.

Guidance for meeting agency responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is provided through WO IB 2010-110 (August 31, 2010): *Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory birds* (MOU). The MOU provides guidance that the BLM shall, as needed, modify conservation measures to be more effective in reducing unintentional take and, as practicable, to restore and enhance the habitat of migratory birds (pg. 6). Specific conservation recommendations include:

- Schedule vegetation cutting and removal around the water impoundments to avoid the primary nesting season of migratory birds from April 15<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> (*Terrestrial Ecology Enhancement Strategy Guidance: Avoiding Impacts on Nesting Birds During Construction and Revegetation Projects* version 2, October, 2010; Environmental Services, City of Portland; pg. 6).
- Retain vegetation on the side of the water impoundment opposite the access point(s), as practical, to provide nesting habitat for migratory birds. Typically, this would include retention of shrubs and trees near the inlet of the water impoundment or other locations that would not impede access for fire engines or water tenders.

## Botany

No populations of threatened, endangered or Bureau Sensitive botanical species are recorded in the vicinity of any of the water impoundments proposed for maintenance.

The activities associated with the maintenance of the water impoundments would be largely limited to dredging and brushing and would not impact late-successional and old-growth habitat features associated with Survey and Manage botanical species.

## Fish

Dredging of water impoundments would typically be limited to the dry season and scheduled in accordance with instream work periods specified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Where District fisheries personnel deem it necessary, stream flow would be diverted or pumped around water impoundments to be dredged in order to maintain stream flow below the water impoundments during dredging and minimize the transport of suspended sediments.

All equipment would be inspected daily to assure that there is no leakage of fuel or hydraulic fluid. All equipment would be refueled a minimum of 150 feet from water impoundments and streams to avoid potential water contamination.

## Noxious Weeds

Noxious weed infestations at water impoundments would be inventoried and documented so that appropriate control measures may be implemented.

Whenever practicable, noxious weed infestations would be brushed prior to seed set. Weeds that are flowering or fruiting would be bagged and properly disposed of at a landfill. Weeds along access roads may be sprayed with BLM-approved herbicides, but weeds within 25 feet of water (inflow, water impoundments, and outflow) would be treated by pulling or cutting.

Heavy equipment used for dredging would be steam-cleaned or pressure-washed prior to move-in to prevent the introduction of seed or other propagative materials that may establish new weed infestations.

Any areas of disturbed or displaced soil would be reseeded or planted with native plant materials in a timely manner to discourage weed establishment.

## **C. Land Use Plan Conformance:**

*Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*  
Approved: June, 1995

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 1995 ROD/RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following ROD/RMP decision (p. 6), Administrative Actions - facility maintenance.

**D. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, 1.7, “Routine and continuing government business including . . . maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (i. e., limited size and magnitude of short-term effects).”

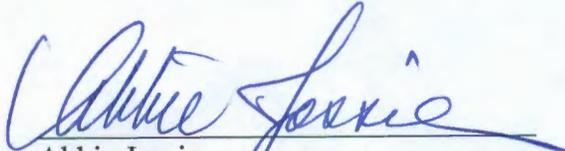
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment as documented in the following table. The proposed action has been reviewed in the following table, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

**E. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation:**

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The water impoundments are located in rural settings on a forested landscape outside of populated areas. Maintenance work consisting of brushing and dredging would not pose a public health or safety risk. The water impoundments provide sources of water essential for rapid suppression and extinguishment of wildland fire to the benefit of private and public property.		
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
Rationale: There are no unique geographic characteristics, historical or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, etc. that would be affected by the proposed maintenance of water impoundments. There are no drinking water aquifers in proximity to the water impoundments, and the project design features contained in the project description would prevent any degradation of water quality. Potential effects to migratory birds would be limited to those associated with removal of brush around the immediate vicinity of water impoundments and along access roads. Impacts to nesting birds would be limited because activities would be scheduled to avoid, as practical, the primary nesting season of migratory birds.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: Maintenance to existing water impoundments does not entail any unknown or controversial environmental effects. The water impoundments were originally constructed for the purpose of providing water for wildfire suppression. Continued use of these water impoundments does not involve unresolved conflicts over other uses of the water they provide.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: There are no highly uncertain environmental effects associated with the dredging of water impoundments whose sole purpose is to provide water. Dredging is a long-standing practice, and under circumstances such as these where the water impoundments have served no other purpose but to supply water, there are no unique or unknown environmental risks.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: A decision to conduct maintenance on water impoundments designated as sources of water for use in fire suppression efforts would not establish any new precedents or represent a future decision regarding the commitment of resources. The water impoundments would continue to serve the role for which they were constructed, and any future proposals for actions extending beyond simple maintenance would be subject to an independent analysis of effects under the tenets of the National Environmental Policy Act, and a separate decision.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: The proposed maintenance to water impoundments is a stand-alone activity that is unrelated to any other approved or proposed management actions. Effects of the actions on the local environment would be negligible and discountable, of short duration, and spatially dispersed. As such, no cumulative effects are anticipated.		
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
Rationale: There are no recorded cultural/historical sites located in proximity to the water impoundments, and the activities planned do not constitute ground disturbance having the potential to affect any undiscovered sites that may exist.		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X

<p>Rationale: There would be no risk for disruption to nesting northern spotted owls or marbled murrelets because maintenance activities would not occur within applicable disruption thresholds of unsurveyed or occupied NRF habitat for the northern spotted owl or suitable habitat for the marbled murrelet. Vegetation that would be removed by brushing activities would include shrubs, weeds and saplings as previously described. Therefore, there would be no discernible impact to dispersal or NRF habitat for the northern spotted owl or suitable habitat for the marbled murrelet. For these same reasons, the maintenance activities would not prevent critical habitat designated for the northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet from fulfilling its intended function.</p> <p>There are no stream reaches occupied by Oregon Coast coho salmon that are within 500 feet of the water impoundments proposed for maintenance. No fish salvage would be anticipated that could adversely affect Oregon Coast coho salmon. At this distance, it is also unlikely that any small pulses of sediment associated with dredging would be of sufficient magnitude and duration to affect critical habitat for the Oregon Coast coho salmon or Essential Fish Habitat for Oregon Coast coho and Chinook salmon located downstream of water impoundments proposed for dredging.</p> <p>There are no Federally endangered or threatened botanical species located in proximity to water impoundments proposed for maintenance that would be affected by maintenance activities. No populations of aquatic Bureau Sensitive plant species are documented at any of the sites.</p>		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed action conforms to direction from the Roseburg District ROD/RMP for management of public lands on the Roseburg District. The ROD/RMP complies with all applicable laws, including the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and others.</p>		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X
<p>Rationale: No potential impacts have been identified by the Roseburg District BLM, either internally or through public involvement, indicating that maintenance activities of this nature would have a disproportionate impact on low-income or minority populations in Douglas County, Oregon.</p>		
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
<p>Rationale: No Indian sites of sacred, religious or ceremonial value have been identified in the resource area.</p>		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X
<p>Rationale: With implementation of the project design features that include equipment washing and re-establishment of native vegetation in disturbed areas, it is not anticipated that water impoundment maintenance would create conditions or circumstances favorable to the establishment of new infestations or spread of existing infestations of noxious weeds or non-native invasive plant species.</p>		

**F. Deciding Official**

  
Abbie Jossie  
District Manager  
Roseburg District

7-25-2013  
Date

**G. Contact Person & Reviewers:**

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact:

Krisann Kosel – Fire Ecologist  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.  
Roseburg, OR 97471  
(541) 464-3332

Reviewers	Resource Expertise	Initials	Date
Paul Ausbeck	Environmental Coordinator - Planner	PA	7/24/13
Susan Carter	Botanist	SC	7/24/13
Rex McGraw	Wildlife Biologist	RM	07-25-2013
Cory Sipher	Fisheries Biologist	CS	7/25/13
Molly Casperson	Archaeologist	MC	7/25/13

**Attachment A – Water Impoundments Proposed for Maintenance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Legal Location</b>	<b>Land Use Allocation</b>	<b>Proposed Work</b>
Brickyard	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 1, T. 31 S., -R. 9 W.	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Drain and repair hole in dike.
Trinity	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 3, T. 31 S., R. 9 W.	GFMA	Dredge, may need to drain in order to check drain valve.
Bog Buster	NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 35, T. 26 S., R. 2 W.	AMA	Brush, Dredge.
Tres Santos	NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 27, T. 28 S., R 3 W.	GFMA	Brush.
Magic Mountain	NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 17, T. 31 S., R. 5 W.	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Brush.
Manzanita Creek	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 27, T. 30 S., R. 8 W.	LSR	Brush.
South Camas	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 29, T. 29 S., R. 8 W.	GFMA	Dredge.
Bar Creek	NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 5, T. 29 S., R. 8 W.	LSR	Brush.
Sand Trap	SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 8, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.	GFMA	Brush.
Butcher Hole	NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 17, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.	LSR	Brush.
Turquoise Springs	SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 21, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.	GFMA	Brush.
Boulder Creek (aka Boulder Bayou)	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 20, T. 30 S., R. 8 W.	N/A – private	Brush, Dredge.
Beaver Frustrator	SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 9 W.	GFMA	Brush, Dredge.
Pooh’s Puddle	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 22, T. 30 S., R. 9 W.	N/A – private	Brush, Dredge.
Basin Creek	Section 1 of T. 24 S., R. 8 W.	LSR	Brush.
Bonanza Mine	SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , Section 29, T. 25 S., R. 4 W.	Connectivity/Diversity Block	Brush.

**Attachment B – Proximity of Wildlife Habitat and Nest Sites to Proposed Project Areas.**

Name	Proposed Work	Northern Spotted Owl			Marbled Murrelet			Bald Eagle	Golden Eagle	Peregrine Falcon	Summary of Wildlife Impacts
		Within 65yds <sup>1</sup> of NRF?	Within Critical Habitat?	Within 65yds <sup>1</sup> of Activity Center?	Within 100yds <sup>3</sup> of Suitable Habitat?	Within Critical Habitat?	Within 100yds <sup>3</sup> of Occupied Site?	Within ¼ mile of Nest Site?	Within ¼ mile of Nest Site?	Within ¼ mile of Nest Site?	
Brickyard	Drain and repair hole in dike.	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption impacts.
Trinity	Dredge, may need to drain in order to check drain valve.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption impacts.
Bog Buster	Brush, Dredge.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Tres Santos	Brush.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Magic Mountain	Brush.	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Manzanita Creek	Brush.	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
South Camas	Dredge.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption impacts.
Bar Creek	Brush.	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Sand Trap	Brush.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Butcher Hole	Brush.	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Turquoise Springs	Brush.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Boulder Bayou /Creek	Brush, Dredge.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Beaver Frustrator	Brush, Dredge.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Pooh's Puddle	Brush, Dredge.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.

Name	Proposed Work	Northern Spotted Owl			Marbled Murrelet			Bald Eagle	Golden Eagle	Peregrine Falcon	Summary of Wildlife Impacts
		Within 65yds <sup>1</sup> of NRF?	Within Critical Habitat?	Within 65yds <sup>1</sup> of Activity Center?	Within 100yds <sup>3</sup> of Suitable Habitat?	Within Critical Habitat?	Within 100yds <sup>3</sup> of Occupied Site?	Within ¼ mile of Nest Site?	Within ¼ mile of Nest Site?	Within ¼ mile of Nest Site?	
Basin Creek	Brush.	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.
Bonanza Mine	Brush.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No disruption or habitat impacts.

<sup>1</sup> 65 yards is the disruption threshold distance for northern spotted owls from chainsaw use; this is the distance within which the effects to northern owls from noise, or mechanical movement associated with an action would be expected to exceed the level of discountable impact.

<sup>2</sup> Location of the proposed project area relative to either the Tyee or Klamath Demographic Study Areas which are surveyed annually. NRF habitat would be considered surveyed and activity centers would be identified if, and when, they occur.

<sup>3</sup> 100 yards is the disruption threshold distance for marbled murrelets from chainsaw or heavy equipment use; this is the distance within which the effects to murrelets from noise, or mechanical movement associated with an action would be expected to exceed the level of discountable impact.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ROSEBURG DISTRICT OFFICE

**DECISION RECORD**

Based upon the attached Categorical Exclusion (DOI-BLM-OR-R000-2013-0002-CX), I have determined that the proposed action, Roseburg District Pump Chance and Heli-Pond Maintenance for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 involves no significant impacts to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

It is my decision to implement brushing, dredging, and other necessary maintenance and repairs to pump chances and heli-ponds, identified in Attachment A of the exclusionary review, in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 for the purpose of providing dependable and accessible sources of water for fire suppression efforts.

The proposed action will not result in disturbance to nesting threatened northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, or remove or downgrade suitable habitat for either species, nor will it prevent critical habitat designated for the northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet from fulfilling its intended function.

The project is consistent with the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan as 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*. The maintenance activities do not constitute habitat disturbance for any Survey and Manage botanical or wildlife species.

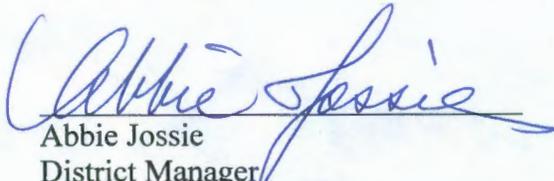
The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR Subpart 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer, Abbie Jossie within 15 days of notification of availability of this document published on the Roseburg District web page on July 29, 2013.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (b) states: "Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision." This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail (email) or facsimile (fax) protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the Roseburg District Office will be accepted. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (c) states: "Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision or the notice of sale are not timely filed and shall not be considered." Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available.

The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the party or parties. Upon denial of protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision as permitted by regulations at 43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (f).

If no protest is received by close of business (4:30 P.M., PST), August 13, 2013, this decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, the project decision will be reconsidered in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available, and the Roseburg District Office will issue a protest decision.

  
Abbie Jossie  
District Manager  
Roseburg District Office

7-25-2013  
Date