U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT, CASCADES RESOURCE AREA

Alder Creek Fish Passage Structure
Categorical Exclusion Document

A. Background

BLM Office: Cascades Resource Area **Lease/Serial/Case File No:** OR 17528

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2013-0006-CX
Date: 04/05/2013

Proposed Action Title/Type: Alder Creek Fish Passage Structure
Location of Proposed Action: T. 2 S., R 6 E., NE.1/2, SE. 1/4, Section 29

Land Use Allocation(s): General Forest Management Area
Description of Proposed Action: The City of Portland, through its "Portland Water Bureau" (PWB) and in partnership with the city of Sandy, Oregon, proposes to implement two actions on Alder Creek to facilitate the passage of juvenile salmon and trout during the summer months. One is located under a bridge on Highway 26 and the other is located on the National System of Public Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cascades Resource Area, Salem District Office. This proposal is in support of a Record of Decision (ROD) on a final environmental impact statement entitled "Proposed Issuance of Incidental Take Permit for the Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation Plan" prepared and approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in April of 2009. Alder Creek is located within the greater Sandy River Basin in Oregon. The fish passage structures would open an additional 5.5 miles of upstream creek habitat to juvenile salmon and trout. The water diversion structure at the proposed fish ladder is a portion of a drinking water diversion for the city Sandy.

Juvenile fish passage at the water diversion site would be provided by constructing a fish ladder that is attached to the diversion structure. Four pre-cast concrete vaults would be placed and attached to the current water diversion structure. Two vaults would be inserted in a slot behind a concrete wall on the bank of the diversion structure and they will rest on the existing concrete apron. This would be within the footprint of the current structure. Two other vaults would rest on compacted gravel fill and be adjacent to the other vaults, immediately downstream of the diversion structure. The vaults would have notches and stainless steel weir plates to provide appropriate fish passage conditions. A notch would also be cut in the existing wing wall to create the opening for the ladder.

The fish ladder was designed and approved collaboratively by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and NMFS. It is designed to withstand a 100 year flood event. The work window for this project is July 15 to August 31 with a possibility of extending the window into September per PWB's consultations with ODFW.

The proposed action is to:

Open up an existing roadway to the construction site. This includes approximately:

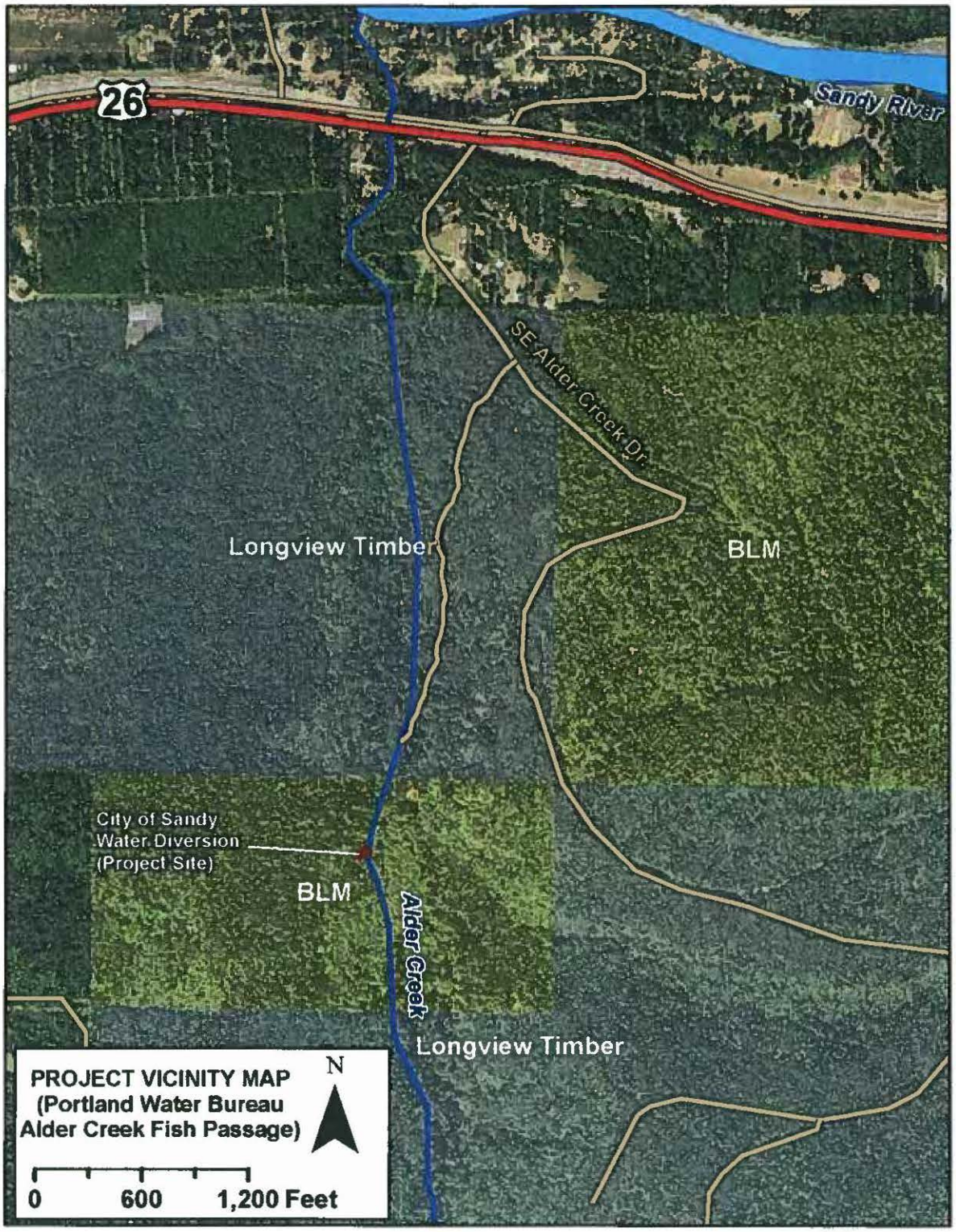
- 2,835 feet of roadway. 2,450 feet on private land and 385 feet on the BLM lands.
- One crossing of Alder Creek where a historic bridge structure once existed. It is now gone.
- The road way on the far side of Alder Creek is unused and over grown. It will require vegetation removal including approximately 10 10 inch diameter alder trees and associated brush and debris. Length of this segment is 475 feet long (385 feet BLM / 90 feet Private)
- Crossing of Alder Creek will be with the use of a "Crane Mat" system of large wooden timbers cabled together and placed temporarily into the creek bed during construction activities to keep equipment off of the bottom of the stream.
- Utilize erosion control and other maintenance measures to stabilize the roadway and make it useable including some road reconstruction and maintenance activities on the private portion of the road such as widening the road bed and cutting back some vegetation.

At the diversion structure site the proposal is to:

- Create a coffer dam to temporarily divert the stream around the construction area during construction activities. Another coffer dam would keep water out of the gravel compaction area at the base of the diversion structure
- Temporary use of an 18 inch flexible pipe to transport stream water from the coffer dam to just below the construction site.
- Perform fish / aquatic species salvage as the streambed is de-watered.
- Install a fish ladder attached to the diversion structure.
- Placement of approximately 2 cubic yards of compacted gravel underneath the downstream portion of the fish ladder as a base.
- Re-position (upstream to downstream around the fish ladder structure) approximately 40 cubic yards of in stream material, primarily boulders, to stabilize the fish ladder.
- Potentially use a sump pump to de-water the area of gravel compaction underneath the fish ladder structure. The limited amount of relatively turbid water from this will be discharged to an upland area where the water will not re-enter the stream but will instead percolate into the ground.

Heavy equipment at the construction site will include:

- A large excavator to lift the concrete vaults and other construction items. The excavator will be sitting on a second crane mat in the de-watered stream channel below the existing diversion structure.
- A smaller bobcat type machine on the upstream side of the diversion structure to gather the approximately 40 cubic yards of boulders and deposit them into the bucket of the excavator for placement over the diversion structure and next to the fish ladder.
- There will be no equipment passage around the dam in the riparian zone. The excavator will lift the bobcat over the dam with its bucket from the access road.
- All debris and excess materials will be disposed of in approved land fill by the contractor.


26
Sandy River
SE Alder Creek Dr.
Longview Timber
BLM
City of Sandy
Water Diversion
(Project Site)
BLM
Alder Creek
Longview Timber
PROJECT VICINITY MAP
(Portland Water Bureau
Alder Creek Fish Passage)
N
0
600
1,200 Feet

B. Land Use Plan Conformance:

Resource Management Plan Name: *"Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan"* (1995 RMP) **Date Approved:** March 1995 **Date Amended:** The 1995 RMP was amended in January 2001 as documented in the *"Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines"*, dated January 2001 (SM/ROD).

The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following decision(s): 1995 RMP p.27 –Fish Habitat Objectives:
"Promote the rehabilitation and protection of at-risk fish stocks and their habitat."

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (A) Fish and Wildlife. *"(2) Minor modification of water developments to improve or facilitate wildlife use (e.g., modify enclosure fence, install flood valve, or reduce ramp access angle)."*

Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215)		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety? **Rationale: Construction and operation of the proposed fish passage structure will have no impacts on public health or safety therefore would have no significant impacts on public health or safety.**		No
(b) 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, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas? **Rationale: Wildlife: There would be no significant effects to wildlife or wildlife habitat, including migratory birds. Project implementation would occur outside of the critical nesting season for migratory birds. Botany: There would be no significant effects to botanical resources. Recreation: Recreational use of the area is limited to non-existent in this area. There would be no significant effects from this proposal to recreation resources. This area is not within the Mount Hood Scenic Corridor, VRM classification for this area is 4. The project is not on or directly affecting the Sandy Wild and Scenic River (WSR) and will not intrude upon the WSR corridor. There are no lands with wilderness characteristics in the project area. Fisheries: No significant impacts to fish or fish habitat because construction would occur during the in-stream work window, and the work area would be isolated and fish removed from the project area prior to work initiation, thus minimizing impacts to fish. The passage structure would improve migration conditions for juvenile fish.**		No

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review (43 CFR 46.215)		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion:	Yes	No
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?		No
Rationale: The effects of constructing and operating a fish passage structure are not controversial and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No
Rationale: Construction and operation of the proposed fish passage structure is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial, highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks.		
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No
Rationale: Implementation of the proposed fish passage structure does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. See (d), above		
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		No
Rationale: There are no cumulative effects associated with construction and operation of the proposed fish passage structure; therefore there are no significant cumulative effects as a result of these actions.		
(g) 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?		No
Rationale: This project would not have any impacts to NRHP listed or eligible sites as there are no identified sites within the project area.		
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No
Rationale: Wildlife: The project would have no effect on T/E Wildlife species. No suitable spotted owl habitat would be modified and the project would be implemented outside of the critical nesting season. Botany: There are no known sites or habitat within the proposed project area or close proximity. Fisheries: Impacts to winter steelhead would not be significant because the work area would be isolated and juvenile winter steelhead would removed from the project area prior to work initiation, thus minimizing impacts to steelhead. The passage structure would improve migratory conditions for juvenile winter steelhead.		
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No
Rationale: Construction and operation of the proposed fish passage structure follows all Federal, State, or local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.		

(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? **Rationale: The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.**	No
(k) 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)? **Rationale: This project would not affect access to, or the integrity of any Indian sacred sites.**	No
(l) 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)? **Rationale: The proposed action and its implementation is not anticipated to introduce or enhance the spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species-.**	No

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the 12 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46, Section 46.215 (see Table 1, above) apply.

I considered and reviewed the effects of the following additional elements of the environment required by management direction. Table 2 shows the effects of the proposed action on these elements of the environment.

Table 2: Additional Elements of the Environment

Elements of the Environment	Status: Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected	Remarks
Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS)	Affected	This proposal will have a positive effect on attaining the ACS objectives including items 1, 2, 3, 6, and 8. It will not have adverse effects on attainment of the ACS objective.
Energy (Executive Order 13212)	Not Affected	There is no known energy resources located in the project area. The proposed action will have no adverse effect on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.
Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Cons. /Mgt. Act)	Not Present	This action will have no effect on MSA species or EFH.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	Not present	No hazardous or solid wastes would be produced by the proposed action.

Table 2: Additional Elements of the Environment		
Elements of the Environment	Status: Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected	Remarks
Special Status (except T/E) or other rare or uncommon species/habitat	Not Present	There are no known Special Status Species (SSS) sites, and no habitat modification would occur within the project area or close proximity. The habitat at the site is unlikely to have any "Sensitive" listed SSS. Because there are no known SSS sites within or adjacent to the proposed project, no protection would be provided. If a SSS site is identified, the site would be considered for protection.

The proposed action will have effects on the elements of the environment as described above; there is no potential for significant impacts.

Project Design features:

Applicable Resources / Objectives Project Design Features (RMP/FEIS references for key points)	Vegetation	Soil	Water	Fisheries	Wildlife	Invasive	Fire / Air	Public	Cultural	Economic
1. If any trees or snags in the SPZ must be felled for safe logging operations, the BLM would require the operator to leave them on site in order to create CWD habitat.	X		X	X	X					X
2. Require all operators to meet or exceed ODF fire prevention and fire suppression equipment standards. Both the BLM and ODF inspect fire equipment during fire season.	X						X	X		
3. Restrict or suspend ground disturbing activities immediately if prehistoric cultural resources are encountered during project construction. Conduct a professional evaluation of the resource site and develop appropriate management practices to protect the site/cultural values.									X	
4. Locate, design and construct roads in upland areas on stable ground with side slopes generally less than 30 percent that do not require extensive cut-and-fill construction methods, in order to avoid increasing mass failure (landslide) potential and to avoid intercepting groundwater.		X	X	X						
5. Install sediment traps and/or filters in all ditches that drain to stream crossings to prevent sediment transport that would cause a visible increase in turbidity from entering streams wherever it is not feasible to drain water from roads directly onto adjacent slopes. Typical methods include: maintain vegetation in the ditch; create small settling basins; or install artificial filters such as straw bales or wattles.			X	X						
6. *Generally,* close and stabilize all new roads and some existing roads after use to reduce changes to natural drainage patterns, prevent erosion, and prevent unauthorized use by motor vehicles (including OHV).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
7. Use water bars or other surface shaping to drain runoff water to vegetated slopes; surface tilling; seeding with native species; sediment traps to stabilize roads:, and/or other techniques to promote infiltration, to prevent erosion and sediment transport to streams that would cause a visible increase in turbidity, and to prevent increases in peak flows.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
8. Restrict road construction, renovation, maintenance and stabilizing operations to times, weather conditions and soil conditions when no surface mud or sediment laden runoff would be generated.		X	X	X						X

Applicable Resources / Objectives Project Design Features (RMP/FEIS references for key points)	Vegetation	Soil	Water	Fisheries	Wildlife	Invasive	Fire / Air	Public	Cultural	Economic
9. Retain old growth trees[1] and protect them from logging damage that would potentially affect the health or function of the trees. Individually designate old growth trees that are inside unit boundaries for retention.	X				X					X
10. Maintain ninety (90) percent of snags larger than 15 inches diameter and taller than 15 feet (IDT BMP based on Wildlife Report) intact and standing during logging activities [2] and in planning road and landing locations.					X					X
11. Retain existing Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) meeting RMP standards of at least 20 inches diameter (large end) and 20 feet long wherever		X			X					X
12. Seed and mulch exposed soil (e.g. at stream crossings) using native plant species seed and sterile mulch, (free of non-native seed) in order to stabilize the soil and prevent establishing invasive/non-native plant species on disturbed soil in the project area.	X	X	X	X	X	X				
13. Clean all ground-disturbing logging and road construction equipment to be free of off-site soil, plant parts and seed prior to entering the project area to prevent introducing invasive and non-native plants into the project area.						X				
14. For locations within the project area that have existing populations of high priority weed species[3] the BLM would require the contractor to similarly clean logging and road construction equipment prior to leaving the project area or at an approved industrial wash facility to prevent transporting soil, seed and plant parts from the project area to another area.						X				
15. Restrict or suspend operations, or modify project boundaries at any time if plant or animal populations that require protection are found during ongoing surveys or are found incidental to operations or other activity in the project area.	X				X					

[1] Trees older than 200 years – RMP/FEIS, Table 3-16, p. 3-28 and glossary.
[2] Snags would be cut to provide for safe operations as required by Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA, Oregon Occupational Safety And Health Standards, OAR Chapter 437, Division 7, Forest Activities).
[3] Weed species that are not yet widespread in this region and which have the potential to spread to new areas. (e,g, if known sites of the BLM Manual 9015 Class A and B or ODA List T and A species are detected in the proposed harvest area or on lands immediately adjacent to the proposed harvest area).

Alder Creek Fish Passage Structure

Categorical Exclusion

A. Signature:

Specialist Review and Concurrence:

Review Required	Review Not Required	Resource	Name	Initial
XX		Aquatic/Fisheries	B. Zoellick	BWZ ✓
XX		Botany	T. Fennell	TCF ✓
XX		Cultural Resources	H. Ulrich	HAU ✓
XX		Engineering	S. Ditterick	SLD ✓
XX		Hydrology	P. Hawe	PH ✓
XX		NEPA Compliance	Simons	DLS ✓
XX		NRSA	M. Mathews	MM ✓
XX		Recreation	A. Milnor	AM ✓
	XX	Silviculture		
XX		Team Lead	Simons	DLS
	XX	Timber		
XX		Wildlife	J. England	JSE ✓

Decision Record

Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation (CX) above, I have determined that the proposed action, construction and operation of the proposed fish passage structure involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis. It is my decision to construct and operate the proposed fish passage structure, as described in the CX, above.

Individuals have the right to appeal this decision to the BLM Cascades Field Manager and thereafter appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations of 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4. A notice of appeal and/or request for a stay electronically transmitted will not be accepted. A notice of appeal and/or request for stay must be on paper. To appeal this decision, it must be filed in writing to John Huston, Field Manager, Cascades Resource Area, Salem District BLM, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, OR, 97306.

Implementation: This project may be implemented June 01, 2013

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review, contact David Simons, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Cascades Resource Area, 1717 Fabry Rd., SE, Salem Oregon 97306. Phone number is (503) 375-5612.

Authorized Official: _____ Date: 5/24/13

John Huston
Cascades Resource Area Field Manager