

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Salem District, Oregon
Marys Peak Resource Area

Whitehouse Pit Restoration
DOI-BLM-OR-S050-2013-0005-DNA

Salem District Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2012-0001-EA

A. Background and Description of the Proposed Action

The BLM analyzed restoration projects in the Salem District Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA) (EA# DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2012-0001) in 2012.

The purpose of this Proposed Action is to use aquatic and riparian restoration activities identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (2008) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (2007) Biological Opinions (NMFS:2008/03506; USFWS: 13420-2007-F-0055) for Programmatic Consultation on Fish Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington, CY2007-CY2012 (ARBO) to improve aquatic and riparian habitat on BLM-administered lands and non-BLM-administered lands. Project activities considered in the EA include:

- Large Wood, Boulder, and Gravel Placement
- Reconnection of Existing Side Channels and Alcoves
- Streambank Restoration
- Fish Passage Culvert and Bridge Projects
- Head-cut Stabilization and Associated Fish Passage
- Riparian vegetation treatments
- Road Treatments

The Whitehouse Pit Restoration project is consistent with the activities analyzed to meet the Purpose and Need of the project. There are three components to this project:

- Floodplain Restoration
- Large Woody Debris (LWD) placement
- Riparian Planting

This project includes the removal of approximately 6,000 cubic yards of pit development and road material that has been placed within the floodplain of the South Fork Alsea River since 1972. The soil material will be removed and placed in an upland location out of the historic floodplain. The newly exposed floodplain will be leveled to the extent possible and revegetated with native tree species, shrubs, and grasses. It is expected that some amount of water from the South Fork of the Alsea will access this new floodplain every two to three

years. The project also includes the gathering, hauling, and placement of approximately 60 pieces of large woody debris, provided by the BLM, in the stream channel. Additional streamside trees will be felled into the stream at the project site. Large woody debris placement will follow the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife large wood placement guidelines.

Restoration activities will occur within the floodplain of approximately 800 feet of stream channel. The total disturbed area for this project will be less than four acres. The actual pit will remain available for future development as long as it does not impact the floodplain of the South Fork Alsea River.

Location: T. 15 S., R. 6 W., Section 6; Willamette Meridian within the Upper Alsea River fifth field watershed in Benton County, Oregon. See location map at the end of this DNA.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The analysis documented in the EA is site-specific and supplements analyses found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*, September 1994 (RMP/FEIS). The Whitehouse Pit Restoration project is authorized under the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, May 1995 (1995 RMP) and related documents which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District. All of these documents may be reviewed at the Salem District office.

The Whitehouse Pit Restoration project conforms to the Salem District Resource Management Plan/Forest Land and 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* (2001 ROD).

The Whitehouse Pit Restoration project applies a 2006 Pechman Exemption. The Whitehouse Pit Restoration project meets the provisions of Exemption C, because it entails riparian and stream improvement projects, large wood placements, and floodplain restoration (EA, pp. 10-11).

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

- Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian zones 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 (RMP, p. 5-6).
- The most important components of a watershed restoration program are control and prevention of road-related runoff and sediment production, restoration of the condition of riparian vegetation, and restoration of instream habitat complexity (RMP, p. 7).

- Design and implement fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. (RMP, p. 27).
- Rehabilitate streams and other waters to enhance natural populations or anadromous and resident fish. Rehabilitation measures may include, but not be limited to fish passage improvements; instream structures using boulders and log placement to create spawning and rearing habitat; placement of fine and course materials for overwintering habitat; and establishment or release of riparian coniferous trees. (RMP, pp. 27-28).

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Applicable NEPA Documents:

- Salem District Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration EA (DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2012-0001-EA) – Signed March 22, 2012.
- Salem District Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration Decision Record – signed March 22, 2012.

Other NEPA documents and other related documents relevant to the proposed action:

- Salem District RMP/EIS – November 1994 and Record of Decision – May 1995
- South Fork Alsea Watershed Analysis – 1995
- Salem District Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration project file

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Yes. The action would be completed as described and analyzed in the EA (pp. 13-17), with the addition of planting additional shrub or forb species such as, but not limited to, sword-fern. The addition of planting shrub or forb species compared to tree species identified in the EA does not change the scope of the proposed action as previously analyzed.

Floodplain Restoration (EA, pp. 15, 21):

“Reduce sediment production and increase aquatic and hydrologic connectivity. Project locations would include roads delivering chronic sediment to streams or locations that have road or culvert failure potential.”

For road removal projects within riparian areas, recontour the affected area to mimic natural floodplain contours and gradient to the greatest degree possible.”

Large Woody Debris Placement (EA, p. 14):

“Place large wood and/or boulders in stream channels and adjacent floodplains to increase channel stability, rearing habitat, pool formation, spawning gravel deposition, channel complexity, hiding cover, low velocity areas, and floodplain function.”

Riparian Planting (EA, p. 17):

“Selected riparian areas would be planted with a mix of native tree species including, but not limited to, western red cedar, grand fir, western hemlock, Douglas-fir, red alder, bigleaf maple and cottonwood. Species selection would be based on site specific objectives and site suitability. For bank stability and the rapid development of shade, hardwood species would be selected. For shade and a long-term source of LWD recruitment, conifers would be selected. Species would be selected based on their suitability to site factors such as shade and wet soil. Within these parameters, a mixture of species would be planted to promote stand diversity.”

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

The EA analyzed the No Action and the Proposed Action alternatives. No other reasonable alternatives to achieving the purpose and need were identified by the Interdisciplinary Team or the public. No new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances have arisen since the EA was published that would require the development of additional alternatives. A full description of the alternatives can be found in Chapter 2 of the EA, pp. 12-17.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Yes. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate. There is no new significant information or circumstances relative to the analysis in the EA or the current action. The analysis and conclusions in the EA are appropriate and adequate.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the proposed action?

Yes. The methodology and analytical approach continue to be appropriate. There are no changes in resource conditions since the EA was published in 2012 that would render the data or analysis insufficient.

5. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA

document(s)?

The EA analyzed direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action on affected resources (fisheries/aquatic habitat, water quality, botany, invasive plants, and wildlife). There are no substantial changes from those addressed in the analyses to the present.

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

Public involvement for the EA has been adequate. The BLM sent scoping letters in 2011 to 41 potentially affected and or interested individuals, groups, and agencies. One comment in support of the EA was received. The EA and FONSI were made available for a 15 day public review on March 6, 2012. No comments were received on the EA.

Consultation

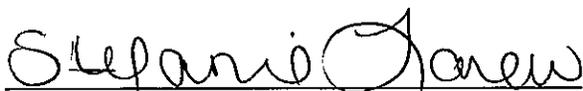
Wildlife: Consultation for aquatic restoration projects covered under this DNA has been completed under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programmatic Consultation for Aquatic Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington (ARBO #13420-2007-F-0055) issued on June 14, 2007. On March 19, 2013 the US Fish and Wildlife Service extended ARBO Programmatic Consultation Coverage (#8330.F0055(07)) until reinitiation of consultation is completed on a newer programmatic consultation (ARBO II). Associated with the extension of the USFWS ARBO Programmatic Consultation, Incidental Take must not exceed Take allocations as described under the ARBO 2007-2012 allocations.

Fish: The Endangered Species Act listed threatened fish, OC coho salmon, are more than 4 miles downstream of the project area. Essential Fish Habitat for Chinook and coho salmon is more than 4 miles downstream of the project area. No effects to listed fish species or EFH would occur. No consultation is warranted.

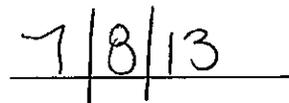
E. Interdisciplinary Analysis

Name	Specialty
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Stefanie Larew	NEPA Coordinator
Arlene Roux	Silviculturist
Scott Snedaker	Fish Biologist
Steve Wegner	Hydrologist and Soil Scientist

Prepared and Reviewed By



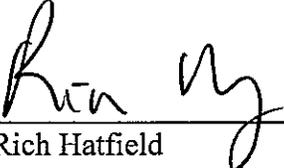
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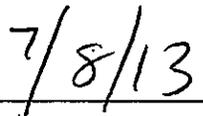
Date

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



Rich Hatfield
Marys Peak Field Manager



Date

Map 1. Location Map for the Whitehouse Pit Restoration Project

