

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

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Peter Principle Timber Sale
DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2015-0001-DNA

A. **BLM Office:** Cascades Resource Area – Salem District

Proposed Action Title/Type: Peter Principle Timber Sale - Low Density Thinning Areas

Location of Proposed Action: Willamette Meridian. 12 S., R.2 E., Sections 21 and 29

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to add meadow enhancement through low density thinning areas within the Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocation (LUA) in the Peter Principle timber sale. The BLM proposed to cut patches approximately one acre in size, while leaving 12 to 14 dominant trees within the patch after the proposed action.

Thinning units that will become the Peter Principle timber sale were included in the proposed action analyzed in the Mighty Moose Environmental Assessment (EA) (# DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2013-0003-EA). The interdisciplinary team identified areas within the Peter Principle thinning units, where edges of special habitat areas (wet and mesic meadows) could be enhanced with low retention thinning. The objective of this treatment is to increase the size of the meadows and reduce conifer encroachment (EA Appendix A Project Maps). Objectives of this action are consistent with the purpose and need of the overall Mighty Moose project for the Riparian Reserve LUA, including: implementing treatments to increase species and structural diversity (EA pp. 10, 11, 16, 35, 86-87) and provide habitat for terrestrial species (EA pp. 10, 87). Consistent with the analysis, all wet areas and meadows were posted outside of the unit boundaries (EA p. 38). All streams were buffered where no harvest would take place within 30 feet of any intermittent stream and 70 feet of any perennial stream; a canopy closure of 50% throughout the secondary shade zone would be maintained (EA p. 16).

After consideration of the actions included in the Mighty Moose EA, the interdisciplinary team found the proposed low density thinning areas adjacent to some of these meadows, wet areas, and within portions of the Riparian Reserve LUA do not change the EA's disclosures regarding direct, indirect or cumulative effects. The stands analyzed in the EA for low density thinning in Matrix and LSR are the same as the stands proposed for low density thinning in the Riparian Reserve in the Peter Principle area (EA pp. 10, 30-33, Appendix B Stand Information).

B. **Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related LUP Name***

1. *Salem District Resource Management Plan, May 1995*

2. *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, April 1994 (the Northwest Forest Plan, or NWFP)

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

In Riparian Reserve – design and implement fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, (Salem District RMP p. 14). ACS objective number 9 specifically addresses the objectives of the project; to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, vertebrate riparian dependent species.

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

List by name and date applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

1. Mighty Moose Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, (EA # DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2013-0003-EA) May, 2014.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

1. USDI, Bureau of Land Management; Fish and Wildlife Service; USDA Forest Service. August 2013. *Biological Assessment of Not Likely to Adversely Affect Projects with the Potential to Modify the Habitat of Northern Spotted Owls, Willamette Planning Province – FY2014* (BA 2014).
2. The Letter Of Concurrence from the US – Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS reference #01EOFW00-2013-I-0187)
3. USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Salem District, Cascades Resource Area. 1995. *Hamilton Creek Watershed Analysis*.
4. U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. 2004. Northwest Forest Plan Temperature TMDL Implementation Strategies. Draft. Portland, Oregon. <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/or/fy2006/ib/p/ib-or-2006-014Att2.pdf> (Final)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

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

The Mighty Moose Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, address the effects of the same action in LSR and Matrix Land Use Allocations. The current proposed action will be the same as addressed in this EA, and the effects will remain the same (EA pp. 34, 35, 43, 49, 50, 52, 81).

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 range of alternatives is appropriate in the Mighty Moose EA with respect to the current proposed action. The EA analyzes the effects of the proposed action and the no action alternative.

3. **Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?**

The EA was completed in May of 2014. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate and there is no new information that is significant with regard to the analysis of the current proposed action. There is no new information or changes in information in regards to Watershed Assessments categorizations, inventory and monitoring data, most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, and most recent BLM lists of sensitive species.

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

Yes, the current methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action.

5. **Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?**

The direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action of low density thinning areas are substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document. The analysis of the low density thinning in the Matrix and LSR, in the Mighty Moose EA covers the range of effects that would occur from low density thinning in the

Riparian Reserve LUA. The proposed action would remain consistent with the EA in that no activity would take place inside no-disturbance buffers on perennial or intermittent streams (EA pp. 16, 72, 86).

The Mighty Moose EA sufficiently analyzes site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action. The effects of the low density thinning areas in the LSR, and Matrix are described in the EA, and stand conditions and history in the Riparian Reserve are the same as those described for the Matrix and LSR (EA pp. 10, 30-33, Appendix B Stand Information). In addition, low density thinning in the Riparian Reserves would meet the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, specifically “maintain and restore habitat to support well distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species (Salem RMP, p. 6).”

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The cumulative effects of low density thinning areas are within those described in the Mighty Moose EA. The EA estimates that up to 20 acres of the proposed thinning would consist of low density thinning. The proposed action remains within this acreage estimate. There is no additional information that would change the analysis of cumulative impacts from the existing Mighty Moose EA.

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

A scoping letter describing the Mighty Moose Thinning Project was available for public review from September 17 to October 17, 2012. The Mighty Moose EA was available for review from May 7 to June 6, 2014 which disclosed up to 20 acres of low density thinning areas as the proposed action (EA pp. 16, 17, 43).

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting review or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

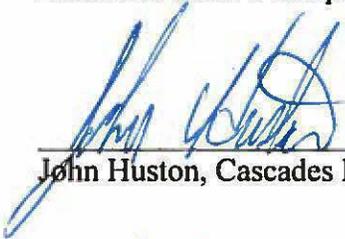
Name	Role or Resource Represented	Initials
Corbin Murphy	Wildlife/Writer/Editor	CJM
David Simons	NEPA Review	DLS
Terry Fennell	Botany	TGF
Bruce Zoellick	Fisheries	BWZ
Patrick Hawe	Hydrology/Water Quality/Soils	WPH
Dugan Bonney	Silviculture	DPB
Jim England	Wildlife	JSE

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

The current proposed action would remain consistent with the EA in that no activity would take place inside no-disturbance buffers on perennial or intermittent streams (EA pp. 16, 72, 86).

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 constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



John Huston, Cascades Resource Area Manager

11/12/14

Date