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*PAYNE RANCH POND REPAIR #1*

Environmental Assessment CA-340-06-021

Temporary repair of pond that is in danger of blowing-out

July 25, 2006



United States  
Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management  
Ukiah Field Office  
2550 North State Street  
Ukiah, California

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Date:** July 25, 2006

**Project Title:** Payne Ranch Pond Repair #1

**Name and Address of Applicant:** Bureau of Land Management, Ukiah Field Office

**Project Location:** T.13N., R.5W. Section 10, SESW  
Colusa County (Wilson Valley 7.5' Quad)

**Land Status Verified:** Yes, all public land

**Affected Surface Area:** The actual amount of disturbed area will be less than 0.1 acre.

**Authorization for the Action:** Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976.

**Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:** Ukiah Resource Management Plan (RMP) Final, June, 2006; Cache Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan (Final), 2004

**Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or Other Environmental**

**Documents:** This project is located within the Cache Creek Natural Area (CCNA) and is subject to the management constraints found in the Cache Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan.

**Remarks:** This project seeks to prevent the loss of the second largest perennial pond on the Payne Ranch acquisition known as Turkey Ridge Pond (see photos next page). A major headcut that has been working its way back to the edge of the pond could breach following the next heavy rainfall event, resulting in loss of important wildlife habitat, as well as one of the prime ponds for recreational fishing here. At some point in the near future, a permanent fix involving a designed spillway, will be constructed.

**Need for the Proposed Action:**

Due to severe recent winters, Turkey Ridge Pond is in danger of blowing out. When originally built, it was inadequately constructed without a proper spillway design. High water is currently flowing out from the low spot of the pond. A major headcut has formed and is working its way back towards the edge of the pond. The headcut is currently about 75 feet from the edge of the pond. Repairs are needed to prevent loss of this pond during the next major rainfall event.

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**Photo 1. Taken from top of dam looking towards headcut where water exits**



**Photo 2. View looking from headcut back towards dam where Photo 1 was taken**

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**Photo 3. This is one prime pond that we don't want to lose!**

**Description of the Preferred Alternative:**

The Preferred Alternative evaluated in this Environmental Assessment involves implementing temporary repairs to prevent a major breach in Turkey Ridge pond.

Heavy equipment will be used to reshape the headcut. Filter fabric will be placed to trap any sediment washing out from the pond. Large riprap rock will then be placed to hold the filter fabric in place, as well as prevent the headcut from advancing closer to the edge of the pond.

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**Environmental Impacts:**

**Preferred Alternative:** Make temporary repairs to Turkey Ridge Pond to prevent it from breaching.

Critical Element	Affected?		Critical Element	Affected?	
	yes	no		yes	no
1. Air Quality (CAA, 1955) Frank Arriaza		x	2. T&E Species (ESA, 1973) Gregg Mangan or Pardee Bardwell		x
3. Water Quality (Surface and Ground; SDWA amend 1996, CWA 1987, EO's 12580, 12088, 12372) Frank Arriaza	x		4. ACEC's (FLPMA, 1976)  Gregg Mangan		x
5. Wetlands/Riparian Zone (EO- 11990) Pardee Bardwell	x		6. Hazardous & Solid Wastes (RCRA, 1976; CERCLA, 1980) Doug Prado		x
7. Floodplains (EO-11988)  Pardee Bardwell		x	8. Farm Lands (SMARA, 1977)		x
9. Environmental Justice (EO- 12898) Brooke Brown		x	10. Wilderness (FLPMA, 1976; WA, 1964) Jonna Hildenbrand		x
11. Native American Religious Concerns (AIRFA, 1978) Brooke Brown		x	12. Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SRA, 1968) Jonna Hildenbrand		x
13. Cultural Resources (NHPA, 1966) Brooke Brown	?	?	14. Invasive, Non-Native Species (Lacey Act, Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974) Pardee Bardwell		x
15. Migratory Birds (EO 13186, 2001) Gregg Mangan or Pardee Bardwell		x			

*In the following paragraphs describe the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) to the above critical elements and all other resources that might be affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives. If a critical element is not affected, write a short explanation below, otherwise explain how the critical element is affected. For all impacts, describe a mitigation measure to reduce or eliminate that impact.*

See NEPA Handbook, App5, for more info and references to BLM manual sections about these Critical Elements.

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A. Impacts to Critical Elements:

1. Air Quality: Not Affected.
2. T&E Species: Not Affected.
3. Water Quality: Affected. This is expected to be minor, however. There may be minor sediment transport caused from this project, but the focus is to trap any sediment and prevent its downstream transport. This is what the filter fabric and riprap is designed to do.
4. ACEC's: Not Affected.
5. Wetlands/Riparian Zone: Affected. Impacts will be positive, as wetland/riparian habitat will be preserved by the actions of this project.
6. Hazardous & Solid Wastes: Not Affected.
7. Floodplains: Not affected.
8. Farm Lands: Not affected.
9. Environmental Justice: Not affected.
10. Wilderness: Not Affected.
11. Native American Religious Concerns: Not affected.
12. Wild and Scenic Rivers: Not affected.
13. Cultural Resources:
14. Invasive, Non-Native Species: Not Affected.
15. Migratory birds: Not affected.

B. Impacts to other resources from the Proposed Action:

1. Soils: Affected. This is expected to be minor. See 3 above.
2. Recreation: Affected. Impacts to recreation will be positive, as the proposed project will maintain an existing pond used for recreational fishing.

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3. Wildlife: Affected. Wildlife species in the area will temporarily leave the area while repairs are being made to the headcut. This will only be a short-term minimal impact. Impacts to wildlife will be positive by preventing this habitat from being lost.

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**Alternative 1 - No-Action:** This alternative involves leaving the situation as it currently is. No action means that no steps will be taken to prevent the headcut from advancing to the edge of the pond.

**Environmental Impacts**

Critical Element	Affected?		Critical Element	Affected?	
	yes	no		yes	no
1. Air Quality (CAA, 1955) Frank Arriaza		x	2. T&E Species (ESA, 1973) Gregg Mangan or Pardee Bardwell		x
3. Water Quality (Surface and Ground; SDWA amend 1996, CWA 1987, EO's 12580, 12088, 12372) Frank Arriaza	x		4. ACEC's (FLPMA, 1976) Gregg Mangan		x
5. Wetlands/Riparian Zone (EO- 11990) Pardee Bardwell		x	6. Hazardous & Solid Wastes (RCRA, 1976; CERCLA, 1980) Doug Prado		x
7. Floodplains (EO-11988) Pardee Bardwell		x	8. Farm Lands (SMARA, 1977)		x
9. Environmental Justice (EO- 12898) Brooke Brown		x	10. Wilderness (FLPMA, 1976; WA, 1964) Jonna Hildenbrand		x
11. Native American Religious Concerns (AIRFA, 1978) Brooke Brown		x	12. Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SRA, 1968) Jonna Hildenbrand		x
13. Cultural Resources (NHPA, 1966) Brooke Brown		x	14. Invasive, Non-Native Species (Lacey Act, Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, EO 13112, 1999) Pardee Bardwell		x
15. Migratory Birds (EO 13186, 2001) Gregg Mangan or Pardee Bardwell		x			

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A. Impacts to Critical Elements:

1. Air Quality: Not affected
2. T&E Species: Not affected
3. Water Quality: Affected. Without the implementation of this project, water quality will continue to degrade from continuing sedimentation
4. ACEC's: Not Affected.
5. Wetlands/Riparian Zone: Not Affected.
6. Hazardous & Solid Wastes: Not affected.
7. Floodplains: Not Affected.
8. Farm Lands: Not affected.
9. Environmental Justice: Not affected.
10. Wilderness: Not Affected.
11. Native American Religious Concerns: Not affected.
12. Wild and Scenic Rivers: Not Affected.
13. Cultural Resources: Not affected.
14. Invasive, Non-Native Species: Not Affected.
15. Migratory birds: Not Affected.

B. Impacts to other resources from the No Action Alternative:

1. Recreation: Affected. Without the maintenance necessary to prevent this pond from blowing out, a pond receiving significant recreational fishing use could be lost.
2. Soils: Affected. Soils loss will continue in the absence of this project. Eventually the headcut will continue to expand, causing the pond to breach.

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**Cumulative Impacts:** The Proposed Action to make repairs to Turkey Ridge Pond to prevent a headcut from advancing and blowing out the pond could result in a slight increase in public use at this pond.

**Residual Impacts:** It is possible that visitor use to this pond may increase to the point that minor localized soils and vegetative impacts may occur. These will be dealt with on a site specific basis if they do occur.

**Monitoring Plan:** The proposed work on the headcut at Turkey Ridge Pond will be monitored twice annually by at least one of the following: Cache Creek Natural Area Manager Gregg Mangan, Ukiah Field Office Range Conservationist Pardee Bardwell, or Ukiah Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner Jamie Neilans. They will document their findings, including any signs of vandalism, closure violations, and in general the overall condition of the trails.

**People/Agencies Contacted:**

Scott Koller, CDFG  
Mike Walton, CDF  
John Reynolds, Yolo Flyfishermen

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**Writer’s and Reviewers’ Signature Page**

*(Each of you should sign-off on this page only when you are satisfied that this NEPA.doc or CX is complete, correct, and accurate.)*

**Title of Project:** Payne Ranch Pond Repair #1

**Preparing Office:** Ukiah Field Office

**Project Leader:** Gregg Mangan     **Title:** Cache Creek Natural Area Manager

**List of Reviewers:**

Position	Signature	Position	Signature
Biology, Forest Plan, and Rangeland Management	Pardee Bardwell	Soil, Water, and Air Specialist	Frank Arriaza
Realty Specialist	Alice Vigil	Operations	Steve Myers
Archaeologist	Brooke Brown	Engineering and Rights-of-Way	Bill Dabbs
Fire/Fuels	Jim Dawson	Geologist	(vacant)
Cache Creek Natural Area Manager (sign for CCNA projects only)	Gregg Mangan	Hazardous Materials	(vacant)
Recreation Planner and Visual Resources Mgmt.	Jonna Hildenbrand	Law Enforcement Supervisor	Walt Gabler
OHV Recreation Planner	Jamie Neilans	Energy (sign for energy projects only)	Rich Estabrook
Pesticides (sign for pesticide projects only)	Tobey Ringuette		

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Leader                      Date

**FONSI/DECISION RECORD**

**Project:** Payne Ranch Pond Repair #1

The Proposed Action involves repairs to Turkey Ridge Pond to prevent an active headcut from working its way back to the edge of the pond, which would cause a blow-out.

**1. FONSI**

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment CA-340-06-021 and have determined that the Proposed Action results in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. I find that proper consideration has been given to all resource values and that this assessment is technically adequate. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required to further analyze the environmental effects of the Proposed Action.

Reviewed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ukiah Field Office Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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2. **DECISION RECORD**

I have reviewed the Proposed Action addressed in Environmental Assessment CA-340-06-021 and approve the Proposed Action as the decision of the Bureau of Land Management. The decision is to make repairs to Turkey Ridge Pond to prevent a headcut from advancing to the edge of the pond.

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ukiah Field Office Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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