

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Dr. Cottonwood ID 83522

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet

Heckman Conservation Easement
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2015-0001-DNA

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to acquire an interest on private property, through a conservation easement, on the Lower Salmon River within the Lower Salmon River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Lower Salmon River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). After the acquisition is complete, the lands would be managed in accordance with the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP), including being added to the designated special management areas as an interest in land and not fee title ownership. The purpose of the acquisition would be to enhance the recreational opportunities within the SRMA and to protect the values of the Lower Salmon ACEC. The conservation easement acquisition would be for 3,200 acres, more or less, of private property adjacent to the Green Canyon area of the river.

B. Location

All of land lying in the South Half (S $\frac{1}{2}$), South Half of the Northeast Quarter (S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$), South Half of the Northwest Quarter (S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 4, and the North Half (N $\frac{1}{2}$), Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 9, and the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$), Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$), Southwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$), West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$), Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 10, and All of Sections 15 and 22, and the West Half (W $\frac{1}{2}$), Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, and the East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$), East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 28, in Township 29 North, Range 1 East, Boise Meridian, Idaho.

All of the land described herein contains 3159.49 Acres, more or less.

C. Land Use Plan Conformance

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), this proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Cottonwood RMP, approved December 2009. It is consistent with the following decisions from the RMP:

Action RC-1.2.1—Designate and manage Salmon River Scenic SRMA (15,290 acres) as a destination recreation-tourism market.

Recreation Niche: Manage this area with an emphasis on overnight, nonmotorized river floating (summer) and motorized/nonmotorized anadromous fishing (spring/fall) experiences in a largely undeveloped, rugged, remote river canyon setting.

Action RC-1.2.1.1—Coordinate issuance of commercial permits with the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board. Issue no more than the number of commercial water-based outfitter permits issued in 2005 (11 power, 32 float). Whenever considering special recreation permits for new or modified activities related to hunting or fishing, BLM will consult with IDFG regarding the need, resource capacity and allocation to the industry.

Action RC-1.2.1.2—Allow no more than 10 active permits for commercial activities that are not regulated by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (Nonprofits, Boy Scouts, University outdoor programs, etc.). Issue no permits for vending.

Action RC-1.2.1.3—As new opportunities or activities occur, follow prescribed public process to determine amount and level of commercial use.

Action RC-1.2.1.4—Establish parameters for Organized Group recreation permits in SRMA activity plan.

Action RC-1.2.1.5—Issue no competitive use permits in the Salmon River Scenic SRMA.

Action RC-1.2.1.6—Continue to implement the Salmon River—Scenic SRMA Activity Plan. Review and revise plans as prescribed.

Objective AR-1.9—Protect and conserve scenic values, cultural resources, special status species, important wildlife habitats, and other ecological resources by designating Lower Salmon River ACEC (13,855 acres) (Map 15, Designated ACECs and ACEC/RNAs).

Action AR-1.9.1—Review, update, and implement existing activity plans as needed.

Action AR-1.9.2—A high priority should be placed on acquiring non federal lands or interests in lands adjacent to the Salmon River to provide long-term protection of important resource values and enhance public access and use of the area.

Action AR-1.9.3—Support legislative initiatives to include the Lower Salmon River as a scenic river component of the NWSRS.

Action AR-1.9.4—Evaluate applications for new rights-of way on a case-by-case basis.

Action AR-1.9.5—Assign high priority for control of undesirable nonnative vegetation utilizing integrated pest management. Vegetation treatments will support long-term improvement of ecological condition and minimize or avoid adverse impacts on aquatic and wildlife habitats.

Action AR-1.9.6—At a minimum every three years, conduct vegetation trend monitoring studies for ESA-listed plant populations. Weed-control activities will have implementation and effectiveness monitoring conducted. Minimize or avoid land uses that cause adverse impact on listed plant populations.

Action AR-1.9.7—A high priority is assigned for continued systematic botanical inventory of suitable habitat for federally listed and Idaho BLM sensitive plants.

Objective WR-1.1—Manage the Salmon River from Long Tom Bar to the Snake River (112 miles) to protect its identified outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing condition until redirected by Congress.

Action WR-1.1.1—Continue to implement the Lower Salmon River Scenic and Lower Salmon River Recreational activity plans (BLM 1983d, BLM 1988b) to protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

Action WR-1.1.2—Continue land acquisition and conservation easement acquisition along the Lower Salmon River.

Action WR-1.1.3—Support renewal of existing minerals withdrawal along the Lower Salmon River (also see Minerals).

Action WR-1.1.4—The 112-mile segment of the Lower Salmon River, Long Tom Bar to the confluence of the Snake River was recommended to Congress for inclusion in the NWSRS as Recreational (59 miles long Tom Bar to Hammer Creek) and Scenic (53 miles Hammer Creek to the Snake River Confluence) (Map 16, Wild & Scenic River Segments and Wilderness & Wilderness Study Areas). BLM management actions will not alter free flowing nature, measurably diminish outstandingly remarkable values, or modify the setting or level of development that will change its identified Scenic or Recreational classification.

Objective WS-1.1—Protect, maintain, or restore habitat for threatened and endangered species in a manner that contributes to the delisting of the species.

Action WS-1.1.2—Before authorizing new federal actions within areas providing suitable habitat for federally listed, proposed, and candidate species (see **Appendix E**, Special Status Species), determine if direct, indirect or cumulative adverse impacts on the species potentially could occur as a result of BLM discretionary actions. If needed, modify the activity to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on the species and suitable habitats.

Action WS-1.1.3—Promote threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species (see **Appendix E**, Special status Species) conservation through land tenure adjustments, conservation easements, and cooperative planning.

Objective WS-1.5—Manage BLM sensitive species habitats so actions do not contribute to species decline or contribute to federal listing.

Action WS-1.5.3—For each new project, compile, develop and implement appropriate species and/or habitat-specific BMPs to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on sensitive species and their habitats. Compile and develop CFP programmatic-level activity BMPs for sensitive species that may be used as needed for ongoing projects or for new project development.

Action WS-1.5.5—Promote sensitive species conservation through land tenure adjustments, conservation easements, restoration projects, and cooperative planning (**Appendix E**, Special status Species).

Objective AF-1.1—Provide for diverse and healthy aquatic habitats that contribute to the recovery of listed fish species and conservation of BLM sensitive fish species.

Action AF-1.1.1—Ensure that all ongoing and new BLM management actions support or do not retard or preclude recovery for federally listed fish (Endangered Species Act), designated

critical habitat, and important aquatic habitats (supporting spawning, incubation, larval development, rearing, migration corridors, and aquatic habitats for forage species) (see **Appendix F**, Federally Listed and Candidate Species Management, Conservation, and Restoration Measures).

Objective SP-1.1—Manage federally listed, proposed, and candidate plants and their habitats to contribute to recovery and delisting.

Action SP-1.1.5—Review ongoing discretionary activities for impacts on listed plants or their habitats. Modify activities where necessary to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on listed plants.

Action SP-1.1.6—Complete project specific inventories before authorizing discretionary new actions. Review and modify project and activities to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on listed plants.

Action SP-1.1.7—Consult with the USFWS on recovery efforts and on actions that may impact listed plants. See **Appendix F**, Federally Listed and Candidate Species Management, Conservation, and Restoration Measures for a complete list of Endangered Species Act conservation measures and program-specific coordination needs.

Objective SP-1.2—Support Recovery Plan actions for listed plants to contribute towards recovery and delisting.

Action SP-1.2.6—Consider land acquisition, land exchanges, or conservation easements that support conservation and restoration efforts for listed plants.

Objective SP-1.3—Manage Idaho BLM sensitive plants and their habitats to contribute to conservation of the species and removal of the species from protective status.

Action SP-1.3.4—Review ongoing discretionary activities for impacts on Idaho BLM sensitive plants and their habitats. Modify activities where necessary to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on Idaho BLM sensitive plants that may contribute to federal listing.

Objective CR-1.3—Standardize cultural site record information and evaluation documentation to allocate sites to cultural use categories.

Action CR-1.3.1—Establish a schedule to update existing cultural records and allocate sites to cultural use categories within five years of the signing of the ROD for this RMP. Information needed to better allocate resource use categories includes site characteristics, chronological placement, geomorphic relationships, and overall data potential. Methodology to collect such information may include but not be limited to detailed photography, intensive mapping, excavations, geomorphic analysis, and other forms of analyses.

Action CR-1.3.2—Nominate eligible sites or areas to the National Register of Historic Places.

Objective CR-1.4—Develop cultural resource management plans for significant cultural resources or traditional cultural properties.

Action CR-1.4.1—Continue to implement the Lower Salmon River Cultural Resource Management Plan (BLM 1983a).

Action CR-1.4.2—Identify additional sites and/or areas requiring the development of cultural resource management plans.

Action CR-1.4.3—Coordinate with fire management activities through the use of resource advisors to avoid possible impact on cultural resources.

D. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents

The following NEPA document(s) covers the proposed action:

The 2008 Proposed Cottonwood Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, ID-420-2005-EIS-1058.

The 2011 Lower Salmon River ACEC Acquisition Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2010-0013-EA

E. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. *Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?*

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, The effective result of the acquisition would be that these lands would be managed in accordance with the RMP, to include the SRMA and ACEC designations, which was analyzed as the proposed RMP alternative in the FEIS. The specific project was analyzed in the Lower Salmon River ACEC Acquisition EA as it is currently being presented in the DNA.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, There was a range of alternatives analyzed in the plan that was acceptable and would be similar to any new analysis. The range of alternatives which was analyzed in the Lower Salmon River ACEC Acquisition EA was acceptable and determined to be adequate for the acquisition of a conservation easement.

3. *Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?*

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, There is no new information, standards, and species which could be analyzed. The FEIS and Lower Salmon River ACEC Acquisition EA has analyzed all current available information and no new information or circumstances substantially changed the analysis.

4. *Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?*

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, as described in the answer to Question 1 above, the effective result of the acquisition is implementation of the RMP, which was the proposed action in the FEIS, the effects would be the same as those analyzed in the FEIS. The BLM has no jurisdiction on the private lands to evaluate future land use authorizations, except those expressly stated in the conservation easement. Where the BLM may purchase some rights from the private land owner, those specific actions would be addressed as needed with site specific NEPA and consultations.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the public was highly involved with the plan and input was given from several federal and state agencies, local, tribal communities and interested groups. The subsequent Record of Decision for the RMP, which included direction to acquire land or interest in non-federal lands was not appealed or challenged. Idaho County Commissioners have been informed of the possible conservation easement acquisition.

F. Persons/Agencies Consulted

During preparation of the 2008 Proposed Cottonwood RMP/FEIS, and the Lower Salmon River ACEC Acquisition EA (2011), the BLM consulted with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The BLM also consulted with interested Native American Tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

G. Conclusion

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

/s/
Will Runnoe
Field Manager

12/18/14
Date