Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville District Office **NEPA Log:** DOI-BLM-ORWA-P0000-0029-DNA
Location: Bear Creek, 10 miles northwest of Mitchell.
Proposed Action Title: Bear Creek Large Wood Augmentation
Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to increase the quantity of large wood (pieces of wood greater than 8 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter) in Bear Creek, a tributary of Bridge Creek and a stream containing threatened mid-Columbia summer steelhead. In the process, the project will also remove junipers that are outcompeting native riparian species along the stream corridor, helping to stabilize these actively down-cutting systems by adding roughness to the channel. In addition, the large pieces of wood within the channel will help to slow stream velocities which will, in turn, allow for sediment deposition to occur, and thus beginning the process of aggradation.

In order to increase the amount of wood in these streams, trees located within 200 feet of either side of the stream channel and less than 21" diameter at breast height would be hand felled toward the stream. A series of winches and pulleys will be utilized to pull trees into the channel which cannot be felled in a manner that places them in a desired location. The project reaches would entail approximately 2 miles of Bear Creek located above the Painted Hills National Monument. Placement angles, diameters of wood, and number of trees per log jam will vary along the reach in order to increase habitat diversity and promote variability within the channel. Care will also be taken not to damage native hardwoods or any conifers that are to be left during the falling process. The amount of trees to be felled will depend on site specific channel conditions, stocking rates, wildlife concerns, and the health and vigor of the riparian species.

The proposed action described above was fully analyzed in the Headcut Stabilization EA (DOI-BLM-OR-P000-2011-0024-EA) and would include all project design features listed on pages 8-12 of that EA, including the following:

- Retain trees that currently provide nesting habitat(s).
- Rock and wood structures should mimic natural colluvial features, such as debris flow or landslide deposits, to provide channel stabilization.
- In streams with current or historic fish presence, provide fish passage over stabilized headcuts. Log or rock structures may be used to provide fish passage.
- To promote or maintain fish passage, ensure that wood and boulder structures should contain enough spaces to allow for up and downstream movement of fish.
- In crucial wildlife habitats major construction and maintenance work will be scheduled to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife. Areas disturbed during project construction will be reseeded with a mixture of grasses and shrubs to meet site specific needs or habitat requirements.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: John Day Basin Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan.
Date approved (ROD): April 2015

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, or conditions:

"..improve water quality by complying with water quality criteria specifically listed by ODEQ..... Provide habitat for native special status fish species." (p. 41)

"Conserve and restore .... the physical function and habitat values of perennial and intermittent streams." (p. 46)

"Conserve and restore ... surface to groundwater interactions that support healthy riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and physical function of stream channels." (p. 51)

"Conserve and restore ... riparian vegetation to provide and amount and distribution of large wood characteristic of aquatic and riparian ecosystems; provide adequate summer and winter thermal cover for riparian and aquatic zones; and achieve rates of surface erosion, streambed and stream bank stability, and channel migration characteristic of historic conditions." (p. 54)

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and related documents that cover the proposed action

The following NEPA documents cover the proposed action:

Headcut Stabilization EA –DOI-BLM-OR-P000-2011-0024-EA - January 2012

D. 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?

The proposed action is a feature of an alternative within the Headcut Stabilization EA and is located within the same analysis area.

"One method of headcut stabilization would be the introduction of some large roughness elements into the stream channel, such as boulders or log jams. In many stream systems within the Pacific Northwest, large wood and boulders provide natural grade control in the form of channel spanning log jams or debris flow deposits" (Headcut Stabilization EA, p. 6)

"Logs utilized within the logjams may be recruited from riparian areas by tipping or falling conifers less than 21 inches in diameter if they are fully stocked along the stream channel and are outcompeting native riparian species." (Headcut Stabilization EA, p. 6)

"The project area for this EA encompasses all BLM managed stream corridors within the Prineville District." (Headcut Stabilization EA, p. 13)

All project design features from the Headcut Stabilization EA (p. 8-12) would be employed for the current proposed action. All required surveys, such as cultural, wildlife, and botany will be completed prior to project implementation.

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?

The range of alternatives in the existing EA is still relevant to the current proposed project. During the timeframe between the completion of the Headcut Stabilization EA and this document, no new environmental concerns, interests, or resource values have surfaced that would substantially change the alternatives analyzed within the existing NEPA. The range of

alternatives analyzed remains valid.

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 all new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The existing analysis was completed in January of 2012 and is still relevant to this project. During the timeframe between the completion of the Headcut Stabilization EA and this document, no new information or circumstances have occurred that would substantially change the analysis of the proposed action.

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(s)?

Yes, the effects from implementation of the new proposed project are similar to those analyzed in the Headcut Stabilization EA. These include:

"While initial stream shading may decrease following the removal of the conifers from the riparian area, the increased growth that would follow from riparian hardwood species would likely surpass the shade offered by the conifers. In addition, the hardwoods would also add a stabilizing root mass to the stream bed and banks as well as providing addition roughness to the channel." (Headcut EA, p. 18)

and

"Following the completion of a structure, particularly in wet meadow environments, some channel widening may occur just downstream of the project site. This is generally the result of the transition of flow from a hardened surface (rock or log) to a more erosive one (clay or silt banks." (Headcut EA, p.18)

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

Yes, the public involvement and interagency review that was incorporated into the development of the Headcut Stabilization EA is adequate for this new project. The public and other agencies were consulted with both in April of 2011 prior to the development of the EA and again in November of 2011 following the completion of the EA.

E. Preparers (BLM)

Name	Title	Resource represented
Mike McKay	Hydrologist	Hydrology
Jeff Moss	Fish Biologist	Fisheries
Tim Bemrose	Natural Resource Specialist	Wildlife
Ryan Griffin	Archeologist	Cultural Resources.
Kristen Williams	Botanist	Botany/Weeds

Note: Refer to the EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

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

Signature

Responsible official: H F "Chip" Faver 7.5.16

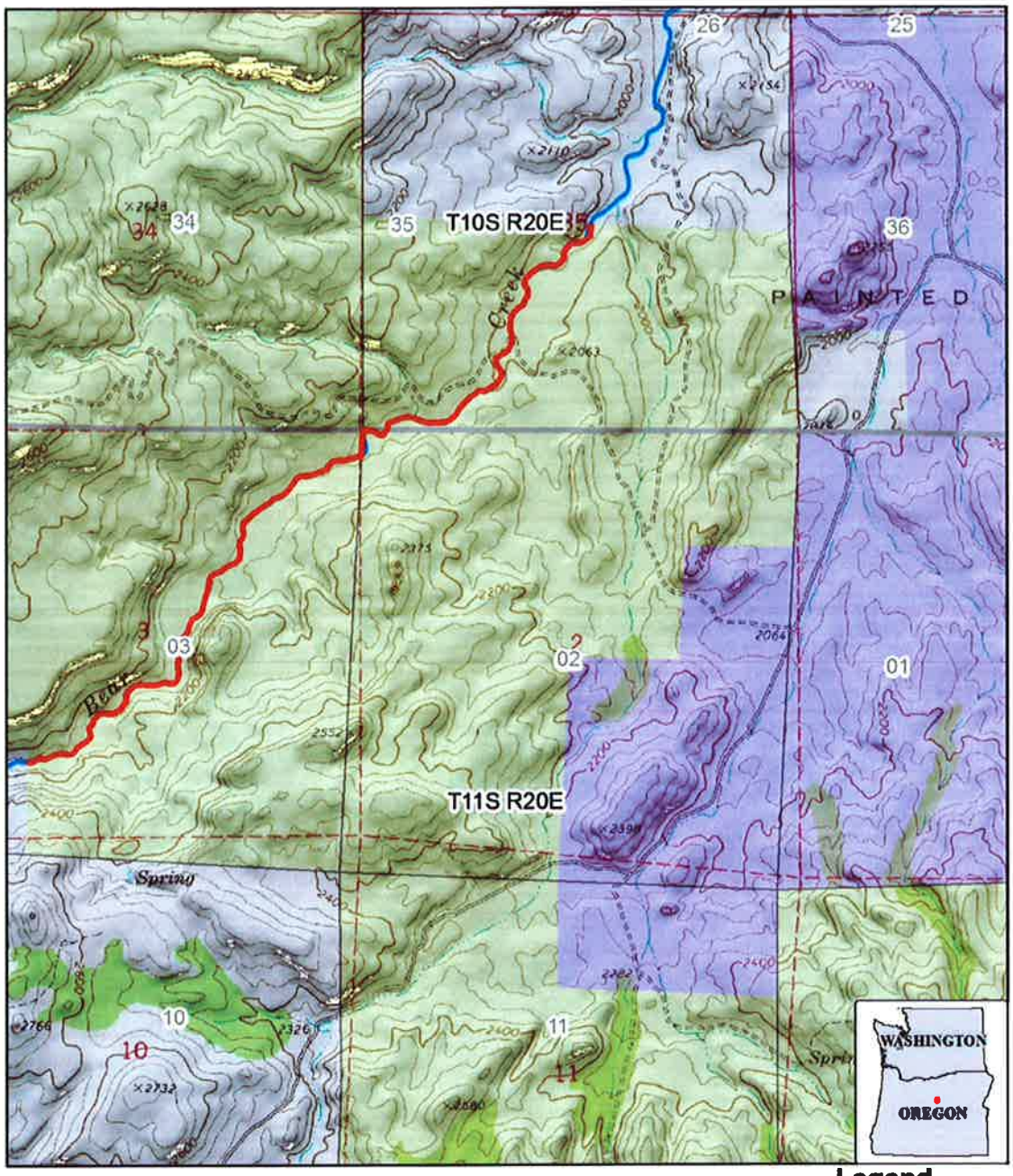
H. F. "Chip" Faver
CORA Field Manager

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. The Record of Decision was completed and signed in 2012 and can be found on the Prineville BLM website for reference (DOI-BLM-OR-P000-2011-0024-EA).

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Mike McKay, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6774, mmckay@blm.gov



Bear Creek Large Wood Placement

1:20,000

0.2 0.1 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of this data for individual or aggregate use with other data.

Legend

- Project Area
- Perennial Stream
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- Private/Unknown