

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA) WORKSHEET

OFFICE: Eugene District

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2016-0025-DNA

PROJECT NAME: West Eugene Wetlands Vegetation Project

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Within the Long Tom River watershed/Willamette Valley, Oregon

Background

The West Eugene Wetlands (WEW) Project is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eugene District, to protect and restore prairie ecosystems in the southern Willamette Valley of Oregon. This unique program involves a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to manage lands and resources in an urban area for multiple public benefits. The BLM works cooperatively with several WEW partners under assistance agreements to implement some of the schedule of work under the WEW Resource Management Plan.

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The Proposed Action is to implement mechanical and manual vegetation treatments identified in the Eugene District Record of Decision & Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the West Eugene Wetlands (WEW) in Eugene, Oregon. The purpose of this project is to enhance and maintain prairie habitat types found in the WEW on BLM administered lands for the next five years (Map 1- WEW Project Area).

BLM is proposing to treat up to 750 acres within the two land use allocations known as Prairie Restoration Area (PRA) and Natural Maintenance Area (NMA) annually. Priority treatments would target existing occupied sites with federally listed species that consist of approximately 556 acres. Actions specifically required by the City of Eugene vegetation ordinance such as roadside mowing and vegetation abatement would also occur under this project. All lands within the treatment area lie in the Long Tom River Basin.

The scheduled work would include 1) control of woody vegetation encroachment, 2) control of invasive species, 3) reducing litter/thatch build up, 4) enhancement of native plant populations and species diversity, and 5) enhancement of habitat for wildlife species. Project actions would be accomplished through the use of a suite of treatment techniques (see Table 1 – Actions and Treatments).

Vegetation treatments would follow management directions (WEW RMP April 2015; pg. 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, & 35) and meet objectives from the RMP directly relating to the following resource programs, (1) Air quality/Prescribed Burning/Wildfire Suppression, (2) Plants (vascular & non vascular), (3) Wildlife, and (4) Soils and Water. Enhancement treatments would be evaluated and monitored either annually or every 3 to 5 years. Herbicide treatments are not part of this proposed action and will be covered under separate Determination of NEPA Adequacy documents.

Prescribed fire treatments would be implemented in late summer into the fall and may continue into early October. A technique being utilized more frequently includes thermal heating. Thermal heating using propane torches would be utilized to top kill or control non-native species and reduce thatch.

These treatments are proposed to be implemented in the spring, fall, and may continue into winter. The propane treatment areas are approximately ¼ - ½ acre.

Best Management Practices (Appendix D) would be followed from the West Eugene Wetlands Resource Management Plan 2015 as well as Management Directions (RMP April 2015; pg. 27 - 30, 32, 33, 35, & 36), Standards and Terms in Conditions from the WEW Biological Opinion (2014).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: West Eugene Wetlands Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP).
Date Approved: April 2015

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because all proposed activities are specifically analyzed and authorized in the ROD for the WEW RMP. The effects of implementation of these projects were factored into the analysis in the Final EIS either as an analytical assumption about current land treatment types and levels of activity, or were generally considered as part of the current condition of the affected environment (WEW ROD 2015 page 3).

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

Biological Opinion (BO) for the West Eugene Wetlands Resource Management Plan (FWS Reference Number 01EOFW00-2014-F-0139)

Biological Opinion and Letter of Concurrence on Effects of Implementation of the Ten-year schedule of Management Activities to Maintain, Enhance and Expand Prairie Habitats within West Eugene Wetlands (Dec. 2005)

Biological Opinion and Letter of Concurrence for Reinitiation of Informal Consultation on the (Ten Year) Schedule of Management Activities within the WEW to Address the Potential Effects to Designated Critical Habitat (2007).

WEW Threatened and Endangered Augmentation Environmental Assessment (2011).
Informal Consultation and Letter of Concurrence on effects of WEW Threatened and Endangered Augmentation EA (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?

Yes, the new proposed action is part of an alternative analyzed and within the same geographic area known as the West Eugene Wetlands project area. Resource conditions are similar and the effects of potential issues were analyzed in the WEW FEIS 2014.

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?

Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the WEW FEIS is appropriate with respect to the new proposed action. Alternatives 1, 2A & 2B and 3C analyzed management actions with the PRAs and Natural Maintenance Areas. Current environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed.

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?

There is no additional information relevant to the proposed action that could be considered significant. With respect to soils, hydrology, cultural resources, botany and recreation, there is no additional relevant information to the project in regards to 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?

The following issues that were analyzed in the WEW FEIS are relevant to the Proposed Action.

- How would BLM management actions affect the restoration of native plant communities?
- How would BLM management actions contribute to meeting the recovery targets described in the recovery plan for ESA-listed species?
- How would BLM management actions affect BLM sensitive and strategic plant and animal species?
- How would prescribed burning affect air quality?
- How would management actions affect access to the planning area, authorizations over the planning area, and authorizations for extractive uses in the planning area?
- How would BLM management actions affect archaeological, historical, and traditional use resources?
- How much would it cost to implement the alternatives?

Direct and Indirect effects were analyzed in the WEW FEIS. Cumulative effects such as connectivity of high quality habitat prairie and savanna habitat were analyzed as well.

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

Yes, public involvement and interagency review was completed for the Proposed RMP and FEIS. The formal scoping period started with printing of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on June 8, 2011, and concluded on July 8, 2011. In addition, the BLM sent a scoping letter to 49 individuals, organizations, and agencies that have an interest in BLM management within this planning area. On June 22, 2011, the Eugene Register-Guard newspaper published a news story on the West Eugene Wetlands RMP scoping process and provided contact information for scoping comments.

The BLM received thirteen comments during the formal scoping period and one comment after the close of the formal scoping period. Agencies and organizations providing comments included: the Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, the Long Tom Watershed Council, the North American Butterfly Association, Institute for Applied Ecology, the Nature Conservancy, Oregon Wild, and Friends of Eugene. Other comments were from individuals. One comment was submitted on a compact disc mailed to the BLM; one comment was provided as a telephone conversation; all other comments were submitted as email. The BLM received a comment letter after the close of the formal scoping period from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The BLM prepared a scoping report, which summarizes the results of scoping including a summary of the issues raised. The scoping report and scoping comments are available at:
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene/plans/eugenermp.php>.

The BLM received more than 80 comments on the Draft EIS during a 3-month comment period. Agencies and organizations providing comments included: the Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, the Long Tom Watershed Council, the North American Butterfly Association, Institute for Applied Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Wild,

and Friends of Eugene. Other comments were from individuals. Most comments were submitted as emails, or attachments to emails. The responses to comments received on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS are included as Appendix G in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were formal cooperators on this project.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Agency Represented</u>
Sally Villegas-Moore	Natural Resources Specialist	Wildlife and Botany	BLM
Chris Worthington	District NEPA Planner	NEPA	BLM
Jessica Gallimore	Fuels Specialist	Fuels	BLM
Julie Turner	Soils/Hydro	Soils/Hydro	BLM
Heather Ulrich	Archaeologist	Arch & Tribal	BLM

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 constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Signature of Project Lead:



Sally Villegas-Moore, Natural Resource Specialist

Date: 6/6/2016

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:



Chris Worthington, District NEPA Planner

Date: 6/7/2016

Signature of the Responsible Official:



Michael J. Korn, Siuslaw Field Manager

Date: 6/06/2016

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. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program specific regulations.

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DECISION RECORD
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2016-0025-DNA

DECISION

It is my decision to implement this action as described in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy documentation DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2016-0025-DNA.

DECISION RATIONALE

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 2015 West Eugene Wetlands Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Based on the Determination of NEPA Adequacy, I have determined that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal it to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days of this decision for transmittal to the Board. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of a notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205.

Signature of the Responsible Official:



Michael J. Korn
Field Manager
Siuslaw Field Office, Eugene District Office



Date:

Table 1 – Actions and Treatment Techniques

Treatment Techniques	Vegetation Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement Actions				
	Action 1 Control woody vegetation encroachment	Action 2 Invasive species control & removal	Action 3 Reduce Thatch Buildup	Action 4 Enhance native plant cover & diversity	Action 5 Improve/maintain nesting/rearing habitat for WPT
Carbon addition *				X	
Chainsaws/Thinning	X			X	X
Biosolids treatments *		X		X	
Fill removal *				X	X
Girdling trees	X				X
Grind tree stumps	X	X			
Grubbing	X	X			X
Hand tools (Hoeing, Clipping, lopping)	X	X			X
Livestock grazing (particularly sheep or goats)*	X	X			
Mowing/Mastication	X	X	X	X	
Mycorrhizae addition *		X		X	
Planting propagules, and plugs for augmentation.		X		X	X
Prescribed burning	X	X	X	X	X
Raking*			X	X	
Shade cloth		X			X
Sod rolling *		X			X
Solarization*		X			X
Spot tilling *		X			X
Thermal (flame weeder, propane) *	X	X	X		X
Tilling/disking *		X		X	
Weed whacking	X	X			X
Western Pond Turtle					
Planting of aquatic vegetation					X
Create/improve upland soil mounds for nesting					X
Remove vegetative barriers to movement					X
Enhancing emergent habitats and ponds					X
Coarse wood and boulder placement in ponds					X

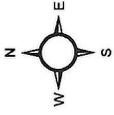
* These treatment techniques will not be applied within Federally-listed T&E plant populations when the treatment could result in adverse affects to populations of T&E species.

Map 1

Legend

Land Use Allocation

- Natural Maintenance
- Reserve
- Project Area Boundary



Not to be used for the purpose of land management or to determine liability. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

