

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District

Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

BLM Office: Coos Bay District, Myrtlewood Field Office
Tracking No.: DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2016-0005-DNA

A. Description of the Proposed Action:

Proposed Action Title/Type: **New River Instream Wood Placement Project**
Location /Legal Description: T. 31 S., R. 15 W., Secs. 04 and 05, Willamette Meridian

Proposed Action:

The New River Instream Wood Placement Project consists of placing approximately 30 logs along 0.4 miles of New River to improve aquatic habitat within the Morton Creek-Frontal Pacific Ocean 6th field watershed. The project includes configuring whole trees, trees with attached rootwads, and cut logs in jams consisting of approximately three to ten logs per site.

The 0.4 miles of New River that would receive instream log placement are entirely within lands managed by private landowners. The Wyden Amendment (Public Law 105-277, Section 323 as amended by Public Law 109-54, Section 434) authorizes the BLM to enter into cooperative agreements with willing participants for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources on public or private land. The South Coast Watershed Council would administer the contracted work, obtain the materials for placement on private lands, and arrange for the delivery of materials to the project sites utilizing self-loaders, excavators, or similar heavy equipment.

Logs would be secured by burying a portion of each log into the streambank with excavation; logs would also be pushed into the bank without excavation. Logs may also be stabilized with boulders. Logs would be located along the margins of the channel, and not placed in a manner that might cause a navigation hazard for boaters or other recreationalists. Logs would not be placed logs across New River (no channel spanning logs or structures). The placement method could include the use of an excavator or cable yarder. The project would follow the Coos Bay District Spill Containment Plan for Fisheries and Riparian Operations (updated 2014). Placements would follow all seasonal restrictions related to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in-water work windows for the project area. A BLM fisheries biologist would provide contact administration support and be present during instream log placement activities.

No known cultural resource sties, or plant and wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act exist on this stretch of private land. Approximately 30 trees would be donated from private land owners for instream wood placement. Contractors would cut or tip trees, and leave them along the road prism for staging/placement. The contractor would use equipment to stage logs at selected placement sites.

This proposal is substantially similar to the proposed action of the Paradise EA. Project implementation would follow applicable Best Management Practices and applicable Management Requirements and Mitigation Measures listed on pages 11–13 of the Paradise EA. Equipment would be washed prior to entering the project area, in addition to applicable design features, to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds during the contract period. As the project proponents obtained a portion of the funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this NEPA analysis would cover log placements on BLM and private land.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

This project is tiered to and in conformance with the 1995 Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement and its Record of Decision (ROD/RMP), as supplemented and amended. The Coos Bay ROD/RMP is supported by and consistent with the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its Record of Decision.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP (or RMP) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- Design and implement watershed restoration projects in a manner that promotes long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems, conserves the genetic integrity of native species and attains the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (RMP p. 17).
- Design and implement fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (RMP p. 30).
- Promote the rehabilitation and protection of at-risk fish stocks and their habitat (RMP p. 30).

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

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

- Environmental Assessment for the Paradise Creek Watershed Restoration Project (EA OR125-05-06)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, project management plans, water quality restoration and monitoring report).

- Reinitiation of the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Formal Programmatic Conference and Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Aquatic Restoration Activities in the States of Oregon and Washington (ARBO II), National Marine Fisheries Service, 2013.
- Programmatic Biological Opinion for Aquatic Restoration Activities in the States of Oregon, Washington and portions of California, Idaho and Nevada (ARBO II), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reference: 01EOFW00-2013-F-0090, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2013.
- Watershed Analysis of the Sixes and New River Area Coos and Curry County, Oregon, Bureau of Land Management, 2008.

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 New River Instream project is the same as the action alternative analyzed in the Paradise EA. Contractors would place logs by the same means in similar stream channels and in similar configurations as

those in the Paradise Creek watershed restoration project. The design features and anticipated environmental consequences of the proposed New River Instream project are essentially the same as those analyzed in the Paradise EA.

The proposed project is not within the same analysis area as outlined in the Paradise EA. However, the proposed treatment reaches in New River are similar to those found in the Paradise Creek watershed, in that, the project reaches lack large wood and have simplified channels. Fish species found in the Morton Creek-Frontal Pacific Ocean 6th field watershed are also found in Paradise Creek watershed and include chinook and coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. The Paradise Creek EA also contained analysis that included private lands at a 6th field watershed level.

Because the Paradise Creek analysis area included both public and private lands at a broad, 6th field watershed scale encompassing approximately 12 miles of 4th- to 6th-order fish-bearing streams occurring on agricultural lands, second-growth timber and late-successional stands, a considerable range of environmental conditions were analyzed in the EA. The environmental conditions and habitat conditions of the proposed project areas are within the scope of those analyzed in the EA.

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, and resource values?

The range of alternatives analyzed was appropriate with respect to the New River Instream project. The only alternatives considered in the Paradise EA were the action and no-action alternatives. The current environmental concerns and interests, and resource values are substantially similar. However, within this analysis area Western Snowy Plover inhabit the sandy beach along the Pacific Ocean.

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 are no new circumstances, except for proximity to the Western Snowy Plover habitat, that would substantially change the analysis in the EA. The Western Snowy Plover is the only resource not considered in the Paradise EA. The proposed project is approximately 500 feet from the known nesting locations. In addition to the distance between the Snowy Plover and project activities, sand dunes and riparian vegetation provide a noise and visual barrier between the potentially breeding plovers and the proposed activities. Because of the distance and natural barriers, a BLM wildlife biologist determined that the restoration project would not affect breeding snowy plovers. The manner in which the project would be implemented is consistent with the 2013 ARBO II and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) requirements.

New River Instream Wood Placement project would be done entirely from private lands, and all wood would be supplied from private sources. Therefore, the BLM is not required to conduct Special Status or Survey and Manage surveys. Specialists did review wildlife and plant species listed under the ESA and determined that there would not be effects to these species. Fish and critical habitat listed under the ESA would benefit from 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?

The analysis of direct and indirect impacts starts on page 22 of the Paradise EA. The Paradise EA contains analysis of the effects of log placements by the same methods in this proposed action. The outcome of the Paradise Creek project demonstrated that the prescribed management practices, management requirements,

and mitigation measures in the EA achieved the desired objectives. The project proponents would apply these same practices, requirements and measures to the New River Instream project.

Based on review by an interdisciplinary team (listed below), the anticipated direct and indirect effects of the proposed New River Instream project are substantially the same as identified in the Paradise EA. The EA included a broad discussion of the cumulative effects of implementing this action, particularly in regards to salmon recovery.

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

The original NEPA document underwent public scoping; one question was submitted and answered. There were no comments on the EA or FONSI. There was no protest or appeal of the subsequent Decision. Furthermore, any Decision based on this DNA will undergo a 15-day protest period.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency/Resource Represented</u>
Racheal Jones	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	NEPA
Jeff Jackson	Fish Biologist	Fisheries
Kip Wright	District ACEC Manager	New River ACEC
Teague Mercer	Hydrologist/Soils	Hydrology
Tim Rodenkirk	Botanist	Botany
Joyce Sisson	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Stephan Samuels	Archaeologist	Cultural/Environmental Justice
Julia Jackson	Environmental Protection Specialist	Hazardous Materials
Jim Kirkpatrick	Forester	Port-Orford cedar/Weeds
John Harper	Recreation Planner	Recreation

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 this documentation constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

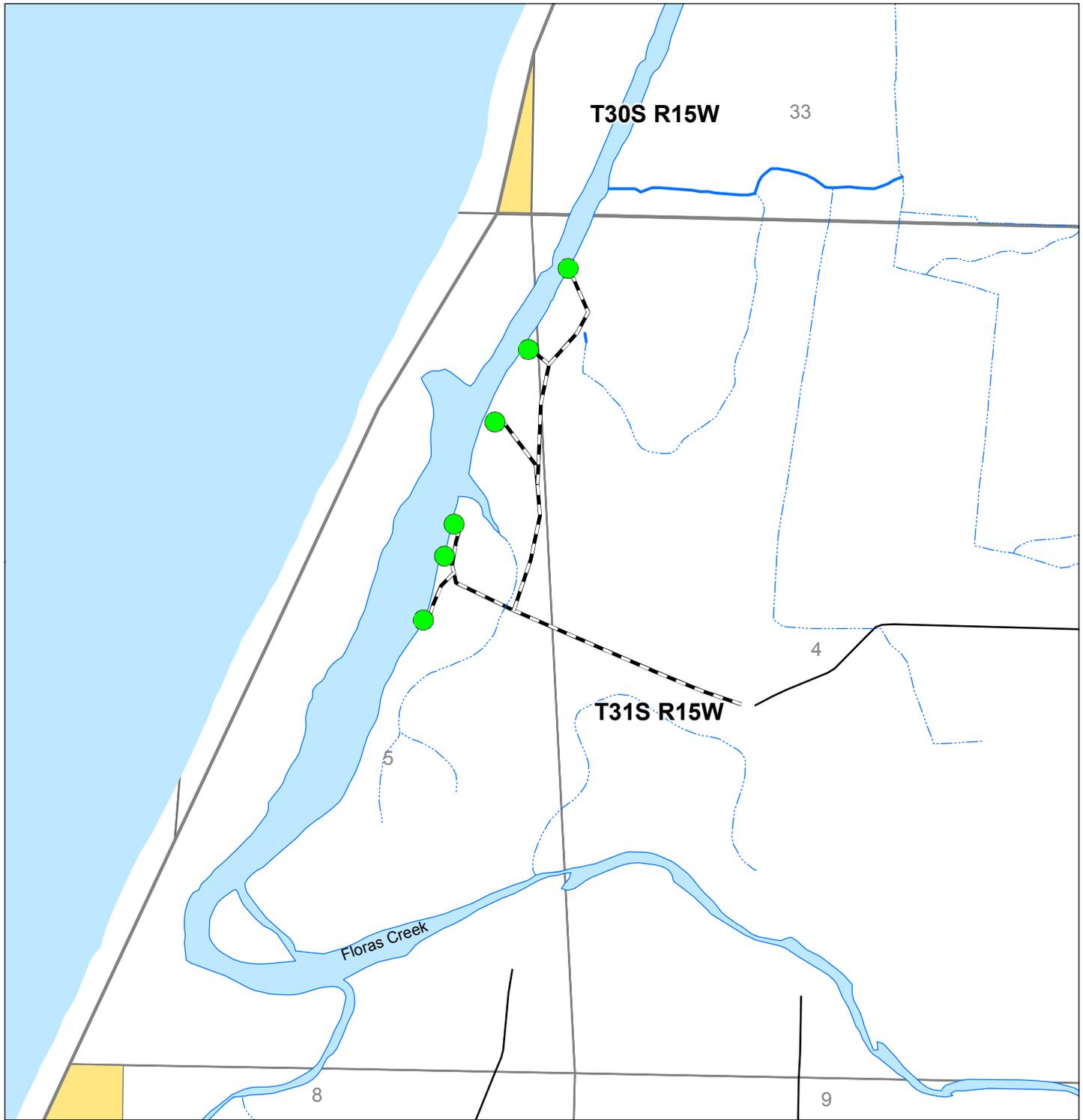
Signature of Project Lead /s/ Jeffrey Jackson Date: 19 July 2016
Jeffrey Jackson, Fish Biologist

Signature of NEPA Coordinator /s/ Racheal Jones Date: 19 July 2016
Racheal Jones, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Signature of the Responsible Official: /s/ Teresa Stutesman (acting for) Date: 19 July 2016
Kathy Westenskow, Myrtlewood Field Manager

Proposed New River Instream Wood Placement Project

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2016-0005



- | | |
|---|---|
|  Wood Placement Sites |  Waterbodies |
|  Access Route |  BLM Administered Land |
|  Unknown Surface Type Road |  Private Lands |
|  Perennial Stream | |
|  Intermittent Stream | |



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management



Coos Bay District Office
 Myrtlewood Field Office
 1300 Airport Lane
 North Bend, OR 97459



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