

**Klamath Falls Resource Area
Plan Conformance/National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Record
for Wood River Wetland Plan**

BLM Office: Klamath Falls Resource Area, Lakeview District (OR-014)

Subject Planning Documents: Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (BLM/OR/WA/PL-96/010+1792); and Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Final Environmental Impact Statement (BLM/OR/WA/PL-95/030+1792); Klamath Falls Resource Area Plan Conformance Compliance Record 7/09/1997.

Proposed Action Title/Type: Wood River Channel Restoration Project

Location of Proposed Action: Lower .6 miles of Wood River. The project area includes portions of Township 34 South, Range 7 ½ East, Sections 36, approximately 25 miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon, in Klamath County.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to conduct an extension of the restoration work in the Wood River Channel involving instream work per Oregon Trout proposal dated May 5, 1997 (available for review in Klamath Falls BLM office). In the Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Final Environmental Impact Statement, this work was identified as part of Alternatives B and C, for that portion of the river between the confluence of Crooked Creek and the bridge near Agency Lake.

Engineering feasibility studies completed since the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) indicate that the proposal for stream channel restoration in Alternative D would be very costly without any guarantee of producing the desired results or meeting the stated plan objectives. Studies completed by a contractor for Oregon Trout, Inc. (available for inspection in the Klamath Falls Resource Area Office during normal working hours) now indicate that the stream channel restoration approach to re-establishing the historic meanders of the Wood River channel through its historic delta form is possible. This stream channel restoration, which was analyzed and considered in Alternative C, will provide improved habitat for endangered fishes and improved wetland riparian conditions. The additional .6 miles of delta stream channel could provide significant water quality improvement in Agency Lake. The result of implementing this approach to restoration will be a narrower, more sinuous stream channel with greater average depth, improved fish passage, improved instream cover, and improved refugial habitat for larval and juvenile fish. This channel will extend the length of the Wood River by approximately .6 miles and relocate the mouth of the river to the position it occupied prior to channelizing and dredging.

This plan conformance determination for alternative project design would affect only the instream work as it applies to the Wood River channel; all other actions in Alternative D would remain unchanged, unless otherwise amended.

Copies of the subject RMP/EIS and its ROD are available for review at BLM's Klamath Falls and Lakeview offices, the BLM Oregon State Office Lands Office (Portland, Oregon), and the

Klamath County Library.

Applicant (if any): None; however, the project will be completed in close coordination with Oregon Trout, Inc. (a non-profit advocacy group), The Klamath Tribes, the U.S. Department of Interior (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, various State of Oregon and Klamath County agencies or departments, and any other known interest groups.

Part I - Plan Conformance Review and Determination. This proposed action was adequately analyzed in the Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Resource Management Plan/EIS (July 1995), as it was addressed in the scope of alternatives and analyzed in detail. Further, the public comments of the draft plan did not contain any substantive objections to the Wood River channel restoration options and the relevant decisions in the Proposed RMP/FEIS were not protested. Engineering work done subsequent to signing of the Record of Decision indicates that implementation of the stream restoration work (as described in Alternatives B and C) now being proposed would result in less short and long-term adverse impact and be less costly than the action described and proposed in Alternative D. Further, the proposed instream work does not change the approved resource management objectives or land use allocation.

Name of Plan: Upper Klamath Basin and Wood River Wetland Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: July, 1995

The proposed action has been reviewed per 43 CFR 1610.5 , BLM MS 1617.3, for conformance with this plan. Ongoing coordination and consultation with the USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act, as amended, will be completed prior to initiation of any actual construction or restoration activities in the Wood River channel.

/s/ Wedge Watkins
Surname of Reviewer

Part II: NEPA Review

The RMP/EIS was reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it covers the proposed action:

1. The proposed action was addressed in the scope of alternatives analyzed in the original document.
2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document.
3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.
4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.
5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different than those identified in the existing document.
6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis of cumulative impacts.
7. Public involvement in the previous analysis provides appropriate coverage for the proposed action.

Part III: Decision

Decision: I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: The action will be subject to any mutually agreed mitigation measures recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a result of consultation.

Authorized Official: */s/ Teresa A. Raml*

Date: 1/21/00



