United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific Northwest Region

Environmental Assessment For The Collocation of the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District Office, Forest Headquarters Office, And Work Center

Construction and Reorganization

Deschutes National Forest

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CHAPTER 1

The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA), the Collocation of the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District Office, Forest Headquarters Office, and Work Center EA, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations. This environmental assessment discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. The document is organized into the following sections:

Document Structure

Chapter 1 Introduction: Includes information on the history or background of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need, and public involvement.

Chapter 2 Alternative Discussion: Provides a description of the alternatives for achieving the stated purpose. Alternatives were developed based on issues raised by the public and Forest Service. Mitigation measures, management requirements, and Best Management Practices are listed that would prevent adverse effects to the environment, through alternative implementation.

Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences: Describes the existing condition of each resource and the effects each alternative would have on the environment. The effects of the No Action Alternative provide a baseline for evaluation and comparison with the other alternatives.

Chapter 4 Agencies and Persons Consulted: Provides a list of agencies and persons consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.

Chapter 5 List of Preparers: Provides a list of specialists and others involved in the analysis and preparation of this document.

Appendices: The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

All distance, acreage, and other numbers found throughout this document are approximate. Small differences between numbers, particularly acreages, may occur. These differences are likely due to a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- Rounding of numbers;
- The use of different data sets between analyses;
- Differences in the parameters of the data request; and
- Mapping differences.

Background

The Deschutes National Forest leadership has proposed the development and construction of a new combined Forest Headquarters and Ranger District office and Fire Warehouse Facility to be constructed in 2009.

Currently, there are four administrative sites operated by the Deschutes National Forest within the Bend city boundary: the Scott Street Fire and Fleet, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District Office, Forest Headquarters Office, and the Bend Pine Work Center (BPWC), also known as the Bend Pine Nursery at Deschutes Market Road (see Figure 1). Two of these sites are leased offices (Bend-Fort Rock and Forest Headquarters). These existing Administrative (admin) sites were created for essentially four purposes:

- -As a primary work-center for employees assigned office and field-related duties.
- -To accommodate storage and security of a wide range of equipment.
- -To pre-position fire-fighting resources, including fire engine and crew dispatch operations.
- -Initially as a nursery/work center to extract seeds and grow and provide tree seedlings for replanting in Region 6. Currently it is serving primarily as a seed extractory for forest rehabilitation and restoration projects across the western United States.

The analysis that follows looks at several potential actions towards eliminating inadequate facilities, consolidating workspace, and reducing leasing expenses.

Figure 1: Project Area and Vicinity Map of Administrative Sites

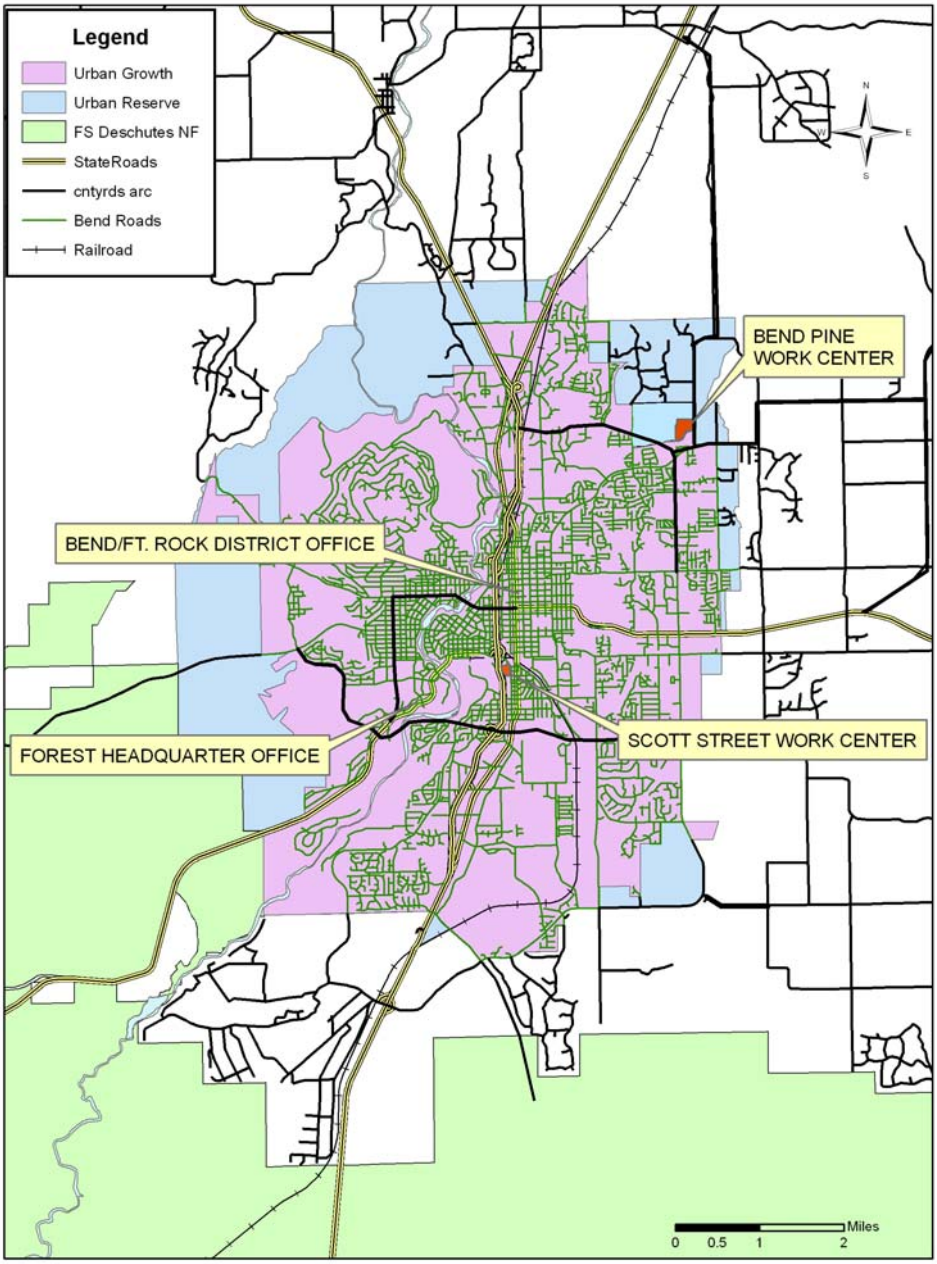

Figure 1. - Bend Area Map

The Forest considered five alternative building locations and evaluated them for the location of the combined office and work center: Cascade Lakes on South Century Drive near the Entrada Lodge; existing Bend Pine Work Center (BPWC); the existing Scott Street Compound adjacent to the Colorado interchange on the Bend Parkway; Knott Road interchange on U.S Highway 97 south of Bend; and China Hat Road southeast of the Lost Tracks Golf Course.

Based on review of the five proposed alternative building sites the Bend Pine Work Center (BPWC), Figure 2 on the following page was identified as the preferred alternative for the construction of new facilities by the responsible official. The proposed BPWC construction site was identified as the preferred alternative after an initial consideration of the geographical and site access factors at a variety of alternative locations, and community visibility and access.

The other four alternative building sites with location and description can be found in Chapter 2, under **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**. Additional resource issues identified during internal and external scoping are addressed in this environmental assessment. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action are discussed in Chapter 3. A list of past, present, and proposed activities affecting this project is provided in Chapter 3.

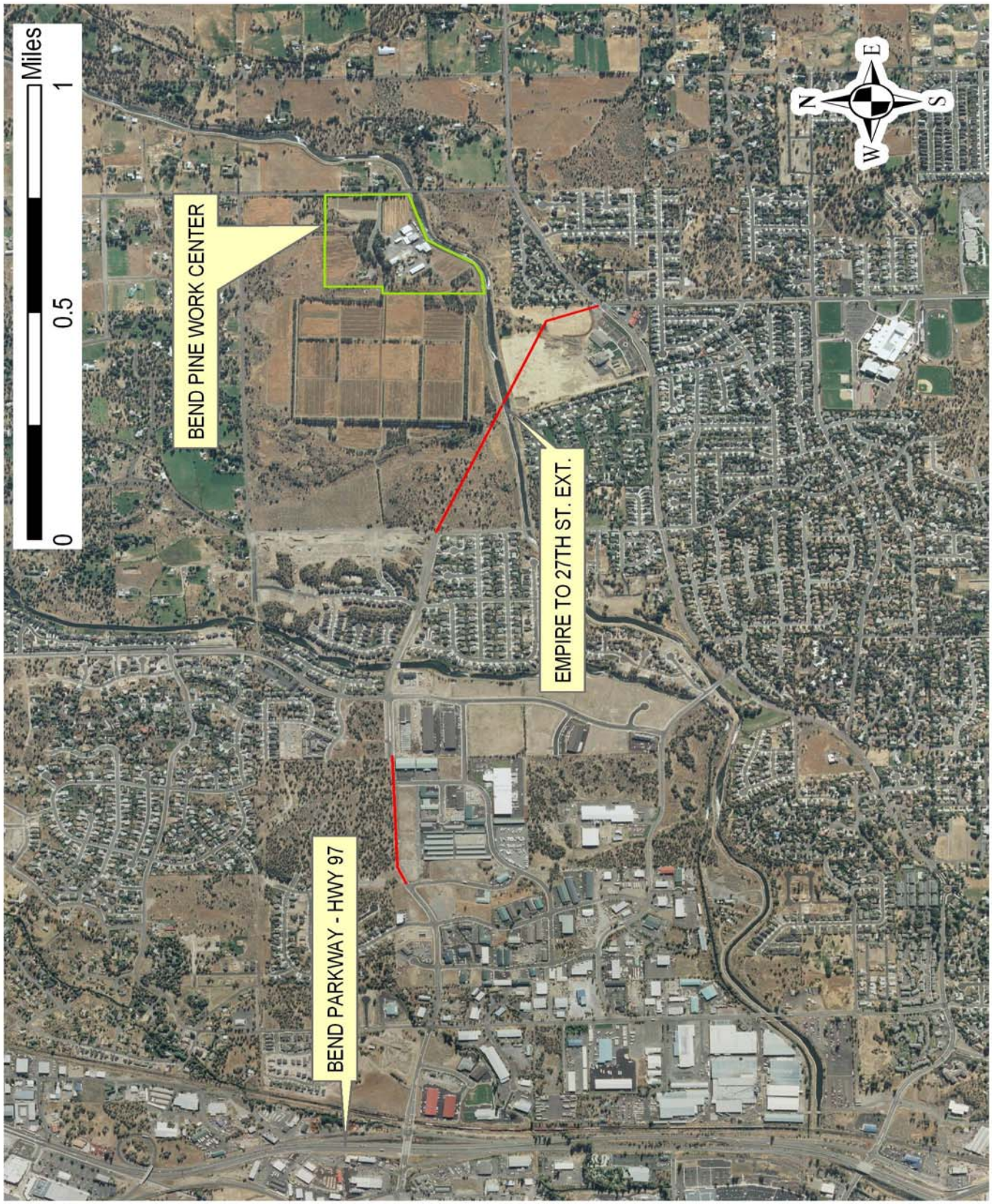

Figure 2. - Bend Pine Work Center

Figure 2: Bend Pine Work Center Area Office - Vicinity Map

Location

The proposed location is located in NW Bend 2.5 miles east of the Bend Parkway. The 26 acre parcel is what remains of the original Bend Pine Nursery property (210 acres). The 184 acres was sold to Bend Metro Park and Recreation District in 2004. The planning area legal description is located within T17S, R12E, Sections 22 and 23.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to provide:

- a new combined Deschutes National Forest Headquarters and Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District (BFR) office and administrative site; and
- for specific facilities, infrastructure, and amenities

There is a need to locate all Forest Service administrative functions near the City of Bend at one site. Current Regional policy and direction is to collocate facilities when those facilities are located within 35 miles of each other. Currently, administrative functions are divided between four sites; the Forest Headquarters office on Emkay Drive west of the Old Mill District; the BFR office on NE 3rd Street (Business US 97); the Scott Street Work Center on the southeast side of the Colorado Street interchange on the Bend Parkway (US Highway 97); and the BPWC site on Deschutes Market Road. The greatest distance between sites is between the Forest Headquarters Office and the BPWC site, a distance of approximately seven miles.

Costs for maintaining the four administrative sites have been rising. Both the Forest Headquarters and BFR offices are leased offices, which are costing a combined total of approximately $1,000,000 per year in rental payments. The BFR office lease will expire in 2009, and the Forest Headquarters office fixed term lease will be up for renewal in 2010. Continuation of either or both leases would be expected to result in continued increases in contract lease costs. The Forest budget has steadily declined and is expected to continue to decline in the foreseeable future for all activities. Increased lease costs will reduce the amount of money available for other functions.

The Forest Service owns the 26 acre BPWC site and the 6.4 acre Scott Street Work Center. The commercial value of the Scott Street site is complicated by a reversionary clause in the property deed covering 5 acres that stipulates should the property no longer be used for forest management, ownership transfers to the Bend Chamber of Commerce. Ownership of these reversionary rights has been purchased from the Bend Chamber of Commerce by a private party.

Many employees, particularly those working at the BFR office, park vehicles and store equipment and supplies at either the Scott Street or BPWC sites. This requires additional commuting time between sites and also results in increased consumption of fuel with little or no measurable benefit. Many employees in both the Forest Headquarters and BFR offices also regularly attend meetings in the other facility, requiring additional expenditures of time and fuel in travel. With increasing development and population growth in both the City of Bend and Deschutes County, this is resulting in increasing travel times and risk from heavy unsafe traffic conditions during the work day.

The location of the combined administrative site needs to be within the Bend urban growth or urban reserve boundary (Figure 1). Having access to existing utilities – water, sewer, electric, gas – reduces development costs. Access, for both employees and the public, is enhanced by the presence of, or easy access to major arterial roads or highways. Areas outside of these boundaries are less likely to have road access to utilities, resulting in increased costs and complexities for development. Costs associated with development, particularly for infrastructure such as roads and utilities, can be more easily spread among a multitude of nearby developments common within those boundaries.

Proposed Action/Connected Actions

Under this alternative, a new office and associated structures and infrastructure would be constructed at the BPWC site. The Deschutes National Forest Headquarters office would be collocated with the BFR office in a new building to be built at the BPWC site. Ultimately, staff, equipment and functions currently located and performed at the Scott Street Compound would also be relocated to newly constructed facilities at the same location.

This alternative proposes to construct new facilities and infrastructure in three phases.

Phase 1 - New Office

A) Construct a new two-story collocated Forest Headquarters and BFR office. Design would include an office building to accommodate personnel from both offices (approximately 43,000 square feet);
B) Paving surface on approximately five acres to provide employee, visitor and government vehicle parking, access roads from Deschutes Market Road and within the administrative site area, and for walkways; and
C) Construct two entrances with signing to the site from Deschutes Market Road, a public entrance, and a fleet and freight entry.
D) Construct an additional lane on Deschutes Market Road (on west side of road) and add a center turning lane and widening the canal bridge on Deschutes Market Road (see Figure 3, Chapter 2).
F) Surround the non-public areas of the 26 acre site with an eight foot high chain link fence (approximately 4,300 ft.)

Phase 2 – Work Center

A) Construct a new fire management building (approximately 12,000 square feet);
B) Construct warehouse space (approximately 17,000 sq. ft.);
C) Construct a vehicle undercarriage wash station;
D) Pave approximately 2.5 acres for parking, roads, and walkways;
E) Remove three existing buildings (# 2104 (Packing Shed); # 2012 (office), and # 2212 (North Pre-cooler). All of the other existing buildings would remain on site;

Phase 3 - Work Center and Crew Quarters

A) Construct fleet and road maintenance shops (approximately 10,000 sq. ft.);
B) Construct crew quarters for seasonal employees (approximately 5,600 sq. ft.);

C) Pave approximately one acre for parking, roadways, and walkways during this phase.

Connected Actions

(Phase 1 – Item D) To mitigate the effects of the proposed development on local roads and traffic, it is expected that Deschutes Market Road will need to be upgraded. Current information suggests that this will require the addition of a third traffic lane to provide for a left turn lane and the addition of a third lane on the bridge over the irrigation canal. The distance affected is estimated to be approximately 1,000 feet extending from the south end of the bridge to the north. No additional road improvements are expected from the bridge south to the junction of Deschutes Market Road and Butler Market Road as that has been accomplished by previous developments south of the BPWC site.

All new and existing structures would be connected to an existing City of Bend sewer line in the canal right-of-way road located immediately south of the property. Potable water would be provided from existing Avion Water System water lines located beneath Deschutes Market, Yeoman, and Purcell Roads.

New 12 inch diameter water main will be installed from the Avion Water System supply line in Deschutes Market road and extending through the site and tied to a same size line serving the Bend Pine Community Park. Additional distribution piping will be installed as needed to serve all water connections on the site. Total length of new water main will be less than 2,000 feet.

The site has an existing electrical connection; new connections/upgrades would be required for the new structures.

(Phase 1 – Item F) Approximately 4,300 feet of new security fence would be constructed to enclose all of the non-public areas of the site. Two electric gates, one located new the office building and the second on the Forest Service access road would provide access to the fenced portion of the site.

Planning Direction/Management Allocations

Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan: The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1990 (LRMP) as amended, provides guidance for management activities. The LRMP establishes goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines for each specific management area of the Forest, as well as Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

The LRMP identifies one (1) management allocation within the project area - Administrative Buildings and Sites. The entire 26 acres of the project area is designated as Administrative Buildings and Sites. The goal of this allocation is "To provide cost-effective, safe, functionally efficient buildings and related improvements needed for conducting the work of the Forest (LRMP page 4-86)."

The following laws and executive orders, with implementing regulations as appropriate, apply to the analysis and implementation of the Project.

- American Antiquities Act of 1906
- Migratory Bird Act of 1918
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (as amended)
- Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974 (as amended)
- National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 (as amended)
- Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 and 1982 (as amended)
- Clean Air Act of 1990
- Executive Order 13186 (migratory birds)
- Executive Order 13112 (invasive plants)
- Federal Noxious Weed Control Act of 1974 (as amended)
- American Indian Religious Protection Act of 1980
- Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1980
- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
- Executive Order 11593 (cultural resources)
- Executive Order 11988 (flood plains)
- Executive Order 11990 (wetlands)
- Executive Order 12898 (environmental justice)

Decision to be Made

Based on this environmental assessment, resource specialist's reports and biological evaluations, the Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest, will decide:

- Whether or not to select the proposed action in full, some portions of the proposed action, or the no-action alternative.
- Which mitigation measures will be applied if required by the selection of an action alternative.

The decision to build or not build at this specific site would be based on the results obtained from scoping with Forest Service specialists and public (comments received), and the analysis contained in this Environmental Assessment.

Scoping and Public Involvement

This project was first announced in the Spring 2007 issue of Schedule of Projects for the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Prineville District of the BLM (April 2, 2007). Scoping for this project began on April 18, 2007 for a thirty-day period, with letters being sent to interested and affected publics.

Two letters in support of the project were received within the scoping comment period. One of the commenters suggested we consider combining with the Ochoco National

Forest Headquarters located in Prineville to the BPWC with the Deschutes National Forest / Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District. This is outside the scope of this document. The Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest completed a study in the early 2000s and determined at that time to not collocate.

Additional scoping was accomplished by posting notices for the project at BPWC office and local businesses near the project area. The notice provided a name of a contact person and phone number for commenting on the project. The Coordinator for Neighborhood Associations for the City of Bend was also provided an electronic poster and map of the project area. This notification was e-mailed to Neighborhood Associations within the City of Bend.

Analysis Issues

Wildlife
A biological evaluation is documented in the Wildlife Report (Project Record). The current condition and expected environmental effects on Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive animal species, as described in the Wildlife Report, is summarized and described in Chapter 3. The report is incorporated by reference in the Project Record.

Invasive Plants
The planning area contains populations of noxious weeds and other invasive plants. Design elements aimed at preventing the spread of noxious weeds are incorporated into the action alternatives. The effects of the alternatives on noxious weeds are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Botany
A biological evaluation is documented in the Botany Report (Project Record). The current condition and expected environmental effects on Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species, as described in the Botany Report, is summarized and described in Chapter 3. The report is incorporated by reference in the Project Record.

Heritage Resources
Proposed activities will have no effect on heritage resources. All sites are being avoided. The effects of the alternatives on heritage resources are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Water Quality and Fisheries
Design elements aimed at ensuring that resource management activities are consistent with and supportive of water quality are incorporated into the proposed action and are described in Chapter 2 and 3.

Soils
The long-term sustainability of forest ecosystems depends on the productivity and hydrological functioning of soils. Ground-disturbing management activities directly affect soil properties, which may adversely change the natural capability of soils and their

potential responses to use and management. The effects of the alternatives on soils are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Social Ecology
Consideration of existing Administrative site effects of the alternatives are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Consumers, Civil Rights, Minorities, and Women
Civil Rights legislation and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) direct an analysis of the proposed alternatives as they relate to specific subsets of the American population. The subsets of the general population include ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and low-income groups. The effects of the alternatives on civil rights and environmental justice are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources
Irreversible commitments of resources are decisions affecting nonrenewable resources such as minerals and cultural resources are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Financial Return to the Government
Consideration must be given to the financial efficiency of the proposed action and alternatives. The effects of the alternatives on economical and social concerns are described in Chapter 3 of the EA.

Issues Not Addressed in Detail

Issues or concerns that were either already addressed through alternative design or mitigation, are not affected by the proposed actions, or are beyond the scope of this project. These resource areas are not discussed further in this analysis.

Northwest Forest Plan
The planning area lies outside the area of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) boundaries.

Wilderness/Roadless Characteristics
There are no Inventoried Roadless Areas or unroaded characteristics within or adjacent to the planning area boundaries. The nearest such area is associated with the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, approximately 20 air miles south of the planning area. There is no designated wilderness within or adjacent to the project area. The nearest wilderness boundary is the Three Sisters Wilderness, approximately 20 miles to the west.

Wild and Scenic River/Essential Fish Habitat
There are no wild and scenic river corridors within or adjacent to the project area. The Deschutes Wild and Scenic River is approximately 2 air miles due west from the project area. There are no perennial streams, lakes, or other permanent water bodies within the planning area boundary. There is no essential fish habitat or potential bull trout habitat within 2 miles of the project area.

Chapter 2

Introduction
This chapter describes the actions proposed under the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives as well as a description of mitigation measures needed to reduce or eliminate impacts. It also discusses all alternatives originally considered and why they were dropped from further consideration.

Alternative Discussion –No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives

Alternative 1 - No Action. Under this alternative, the four existing Deschutes National Forest administrative use sites – the Forest Headquarters on Emkay Drive, BFR office on 3rd St., and the Scott Street Work Center – would remain and continue to be used. No new facilities would be constructed at the BPWC. There would be no changes in the amount or types of current uses at the BPWC. Existing uses would remain; no existing facilities would be removed. There would be no need to widen Deschutes Market Road or the existing bridge across the irrigation canal (see Connected Actions on following page).

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action. Under this alternative, a new office and associated structures and infrastructure would be constructed at the BPWC site. The existing Deschutes National Forest Headquarters office and staff would be collocated with the BFR office and staff in the new office building. Ultimately, staff, equipment and functions currently located and performed at the Scott Street Compound would be relocated to newly constructed facilities at the same location.

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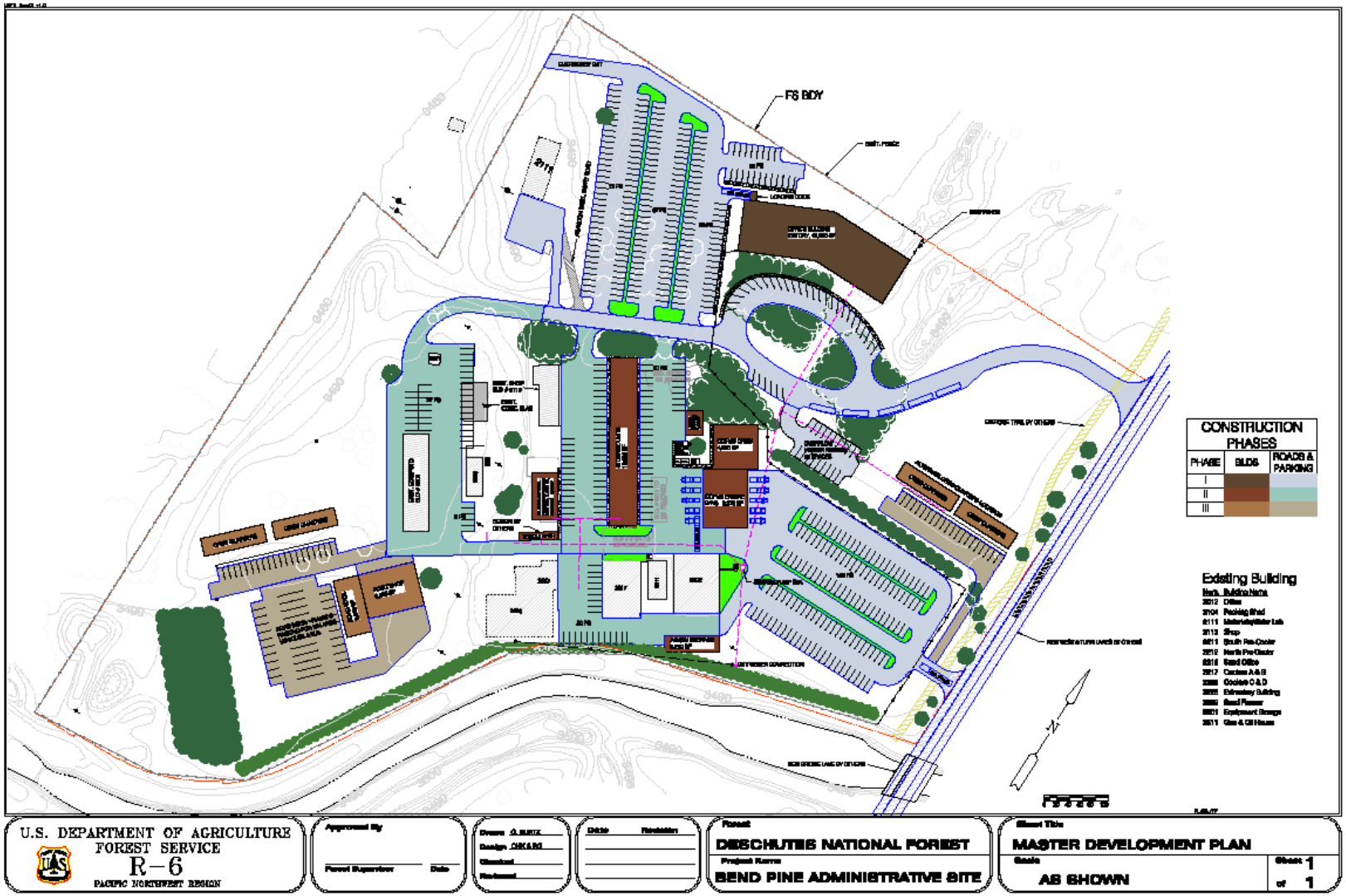
The site has an existing electrical connection; new connections/upgrades would be required for the new structures.

(Phase 1 – Item F) Approximately 4,300 feet of new security fence would be constructed to enclose all of the non-public areas of the site. Two electric gates, one located new the office building and the second on the Forest Service access road would provide access to the fenced portion of the site. The following map is: ***Figure 3 Master Concept Development Plan Map****, Combined Deschutes National Forest Headquarters/Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District Office, Bend Pine Work Center Administrative Site.*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Project Design Criteria (mitigation measures)
Project Design Criteria (PDCs) are actions incorporated into the design of the project to minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental impacts or to meet existing laws, rules, and/or regulations. Building(s) will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990).

State law, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and City of Bend regulations require that all surface water be retained on-site. To meet these requirements, structures and paved or other hard, impermeable surfaces would be constructed to direct water to structures or sites within the administrative site area for capture and slow release into the soil. Catchment basins, swales or other similar structures would be designed and located to maximize the retention of storm water and prevent it from leaving the property.

Surface water management and erosion control during construction would follow existing rules and regulations. Siltation fences, hay or other structures would be utilized to control overland and prevent water and soil materials from leaving the site.

Noxious Weed
1. Machinery used for this project must be washed prior to entry onto the project area (see Appendix B, regional standard #2), and, to prevent spread of weeds from the site to the next job, the equipment must be washed prior to its next assignment.
2. No gravel, sand, or rock material will be brought into the project area until it is inspected and approved by a Forest Service botanist (see Appendix B, regional standard #7). If weeds are found, the source will be treated and/or an alternative source can be discussed.
3. Do not park equipment or vehicles on obvious weed populations.

The site will be monitored for weeds upon project completion (and during the construction period if practicable) and treated as necessary. Treatment can include herbicide (per the 1998 Deschutes National Forest Weed Control Environmental Assessment), hand-pulling, or other avenues such as covering with black plastic, depending on the size, type, and location of the weed population, and species in question.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Detailed Study
Twelve sites were considered as potential sites for the new combined office. Due to the high cost of real estate, the Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor decided to consider only sites owned by the Forest Service. That criterion eliminated seven sites from further consideration.

All sites were evaluated using the following criteria:
- Ability to locate all Forest Service administrative functions at one site;
- Located within the Bend Urban Growth Boundary or Urban Reserve areas;
- Easy public access by major arterial roads or highways; and
- Costs and level of complexity of development.

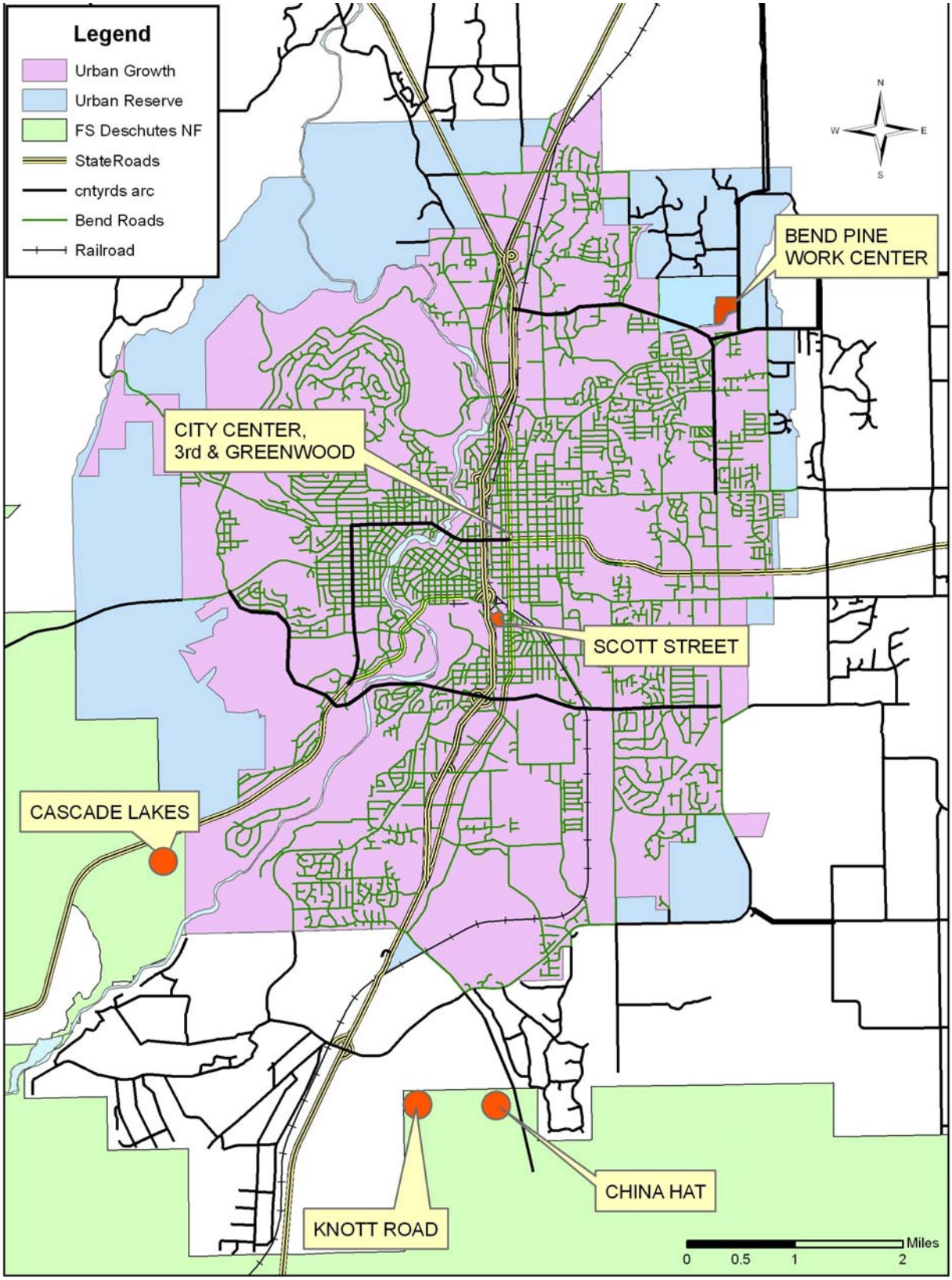
In addition to the BPWC site, the Forest Service evaluated four other locations:

1. Cascade Lakes on the Cascade Lakes Highway near the Entrada Lodge;
2. the existing Scott Street Compound adjacent to the Colorado interchange on the Bend Parkway;
3. Knott Road/Baker Road interchange on U.S 97 south of Bend; and
4. China Hat Road southeast of the Lost Tracks Golf Course.

The locations of the sites are shown on the map on the following page.

Cascade Lakes Highway - This site is located on National Forest System lands southwest of Bend on Cascade Lakes Highway adjacent to Entrada Lodge. There is sufficient area to locate all administrative functions at this site. However, the site is outside both the urban growth boundary and the urban reserve and it lacks city utilities. Cost of utilities to the site would therefore be high. The lack of city sewer would require construction of an on-site waste disposal system. The most direct access to the site is Reed Market Road west from the Bend Parkway (US 97) approximately four miles. Traffic is frequently backed up at the Reed Market/Bond Street roundabout making public access more difficult. This site was dropped from further consideration due to the high cost and complexity of development, relatively poor access to the parkway and the center of Bend, and the lack of mitigating advantages.

Scott Street Compound - This site is located immediately east of the Bend Parkway at the Colorado Avenue interchange. This site is the smallest of the sites evaluated. It is not capable of supporting all administrative functions. A second site would be required to house functions not supported at the site. Approximately one half of the needed employee parking would be off-site on adjacent streets or would require other transportation alternatives. The site is located within the urban growth boundary and all utilities are currently located at the site. Although located adjacent to the parkway, northbound traffic on the parkway would be required to make a left turn onto 2nd Street to access the site. This would likely require the installation of a traffic signal at this intersection. This site was dropped from further consideration because it would require the use of two administrative sites, which is not consistent with current direction to collocate facilities when located within 35 miles. Public access is mixed and would require additional requirements to improve traffic flow and public safety.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Knott Road – This site is located to the southeast of the Knott Road/Baker Road interchange on US Highway 97 south of Bend. It is within one mile of US Highway 97. The site is large enough to support all administrative functions. However, it is outside of the urban growth and urban reserve boundary and the site as proposed has no current road access or utilities. Access would require an easement for access road through private property. Construction costs for the access road, on-site waste water treatment system, extension of water, electrical power and phone services to the site would cost in excess of $3 million dollars. The high cost to develop access and utilities resulted in this site being dropped from further consideration.

China Hat – This site is located east of the Knott Road site and is accessed by China Hat Road/Forest Road 18. It is approximately 2.5 miles by road from US Highway 97 and is currently accessible from US Highway 97 from the China Hat Road junction as well as the Knott Road/Baker Road interchange. However, highway improvements will eliminate southbound access to China Hat Road. The site is large enough to locate all administrative functions. Like the Knott Road site, it is located outside the urban growth and urban reserve boundaries and there are no utilities on site. There is no available sewer service; the site is outside the urban growth boundary requiring the construction of an on-site waste disposal system. The lack of utilities would result in a higher development costs. This site was dropped from further consideration because of greater development costs and complexities, its location outside of the urban growth and urban reserve boundaries, and more difficult public access.

CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This section of the EA considers the environmental effects of implementation of the alternatives. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects are discussed as appropriate for the particular resource. Portions of this section also tiers to analysis in the 2002 Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance EA.

The project area was reviewed for past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The analysis considers how the proposed action and these actions would cumulatively affect each resource.

Table 3-1: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions in the Vicinity of the BPWC Administration Site

PAST, PRESENT, AND FORESEEABLE ACTIONS	
Action	**When**
Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site	Past / Current
Bend Parks and Recreation Development	Current
Housing Development (South of Canal)	Current
Empire Road Extension (see Figure 2, Chapter 1 in red for proposed location).	Future
Urban Growth Boundary Expansion	Future

Wildlife/Fish

Summary

The Bend Pine Work Center (BPWC) administrative site lies more than five miles from the National Forest System lands of the Deschutes National Forest. Utilizing this parcel for an expanded administrative site would not alter wildlife use in this area because:

- It is within an urban setting that is experiencing continued development by the City of Bend;
- The parcel does not provide wildlife habitat connectivity to National Forest System lands outside the city limits;
- High numbers of the recreating public use the area and more will use it in the near future with the development of the adjacent park.

The species that are presently located on the BPWC parcel would likely be displaced in the immediate areas of construction. Relocating the District and Headquarters offices to this location would not lead to reductions in populations that could cause any species to be placed on either a federal or state list of threatened, endangered or sensitive species. No fish species exist on the property and no effects would occur to fish regardless of the use.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species

The proposed project area was evaluated to determine which species might occur based on the presence of required habitats and known locations. A field review occurred at the project site by the District Wildlife Biologist.

Species List: The following species and their habitats were considered in the preparation of this document to determine if the project/activity would have any negative effects/impacts on listed, proposed, candidate or sensitive species in order to meet the requirements for a biological evaluation. Those with **bolded** type, are known, suspected or have some potential to occur within the project boundary and could potentially be affected by the project/activity. There are no known current sites occupied, no known historic sites, and no current or potential habitats for those species that have not been designated.

Table 1. The following threatened, endangered, candidate or sensitive animal species are either known to occur or may potentially occur on the Bend-Ft Rock Ranger District.

SPECIES	FEDERAL and FOREST CLASSIFICATION	HABITAT	NATURESERVE RANKING	PRESENCE IN PROJECT AREA
Birds				
Northern Spotted Owl *(Strix occidentalis caurina)*	T, MIS	Old growth/ mixed conifer forests	S3	No habitat
Northern Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*	S, MIS	Lakeside or riverside with large trees	S4B, S4N	No habitat
American Peregrine Falcon *(Falco peregrinus anatum)*	S, MIS∗	Riparian, cliffs	S2B	No habitat
Bufflehead *(Bucephala albeola)*	S	Lakes, snags	S2B, S5N	No habitat
Harlequin Duck (Histrionocus histrionicus)	S,	Rapid streams, large trees	S2B, S3N	No habitat
Greater Sage Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus)	S∗	Sagebrush flats	S3	No habitat
Horned Grebe (Podiceps auritus)	S	Lakes, emergent vegetation	S2B, S5N	No habitat
Red-Necked Grebe *(Podiceps grisegena)*	S	Deep water, marshy lakes	S1B, S4N	**No habitat**
Yellow Rail *(Coturnicops noveboracensis)*	S ∗	Marshes	S1B	No habitat
Tricolored Blackbird *(Agelaius tricolor)*	S ∗	Lakeside, bullrush	S2B	No habitat
Mammals				
Canada Lynx *(Lynx Canadensis)*	T	Subalpine fir with lodgepole pine	S1	No habitat
Pacific Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)	C	Mixed conifer forest, complex forest structure	S2	No habitat
California Wolverine *(Gulo gulo luteus)*	S, MIS	Mixed conifer, high elevation	S1	No habitat
Pygmy Rabbit *(Sylvilagus idahoensis)*	S	Sagebrush flats	S2	No habitat
Amphibians				
Oregon Spotted Frog *(Rana pretiosa)*	C, S	Streams, marshes	S2	No habitat

Key to abbreviations: T=Threatened, E=Endangered, P=Proposed for Federal listing, S=USFS Region 6 Sensitive, C=USFWS Candidate species, ∗Birds of Conservation Concern
Oregon Sensitive Species determined from the Natureserve database for Oregon: S1, critically imperiled, S2 = imperiled, S3 = vulnerable, S4 = apparently secure, S5 = secure, B = breeding, N = non-breeding

Effects/impacts determinations

Potential impacts of the activity/project for the species associated with the affected area are as follows: The New Office Collocation Construction Project does not have suitable habitat within or adjacent to it for any of the above listed species.

Conclusion

There is no suitable habitat available for the above listed species; therefore no effects/impacts are expected.

Management Indicator Species, Focal Bird Species, Birds of Conservation Concern

Species and Habitats Evaluated

The following species were included in this analysis. A variety of mammals and birds utilize the habitat available within and adjacent to the project area. Refer to the following table for a listing of species with special status. Species bolded and italicized contain habitat within the project area and will be evaluated to determine potential impacts from the project.

Table 1. Management Indicator Species, Focal Bird Species, Birds of Conservation Concern and High Priority Shorebirds.

Species	Status[1]	Habitat or Species Present?	Natureserve ranking in Oregon[2]	Possibly Limiting Habitat Feature[3]	Will Project Potentially Impact Species or Habitat?
BIRDS					
Golden eagle	MIS, BCC	N	S4	(6)	N
Red-tailed hawk	MIS	N	S5	Large trees for nesting	N
Northern goshawk	MIS	N	S3B	(1)	N
Cooper's hawk	MIS	N	S4	Dense forest canopy	N
Sharp-shinned hawk	MIS	N	S4	(4)	N
Ferruginous hawk	BCC, Focal	N	S3B	Open sagebrush flats	N
Swainson's hawk	BCC	N	S3B	Open country	N
Prairie falcon	BCC, Focal	N	S4	6-rimrock and open country	N
Osprey	MIS	N	S4	Large trees for nesting, waterbody	N
Great Gray Owl	MIS	N	S3	1, 4-LPP,PP, 5	N
Flammulated owl	BCC, Focal	N	S3B	1,2, 4, 5 PP	N
Pileated woodpecker	MIS	N	S4	1, 2, moist mixed conifer	N
Northern flicker	**MIS**	**Y**	**S5**	**2**	**N**
Hairy woodpecker	MIS	N	S4	2	N
Northern 3-toed woodpecker	MIS	N	S3	2, LPP	N
Lewis's woodpecker	MIS, BCC, Focal	N	S2, S3B	2-large snags, 7-burns	N
White-headed woodpecker	MIS, BCC, Focal	N	S2	1-PP, 2, 7-sugar pine	N
Black-backed woodpecker	MIS, Focal	N	S3	1-LPP, 7-burns	N
Williamson's sapsucker	MIS, BCC, Focal	N	S4B, S3N	2-large snags	N
Red-naped sapsucker	MIS, Focal	N	S4	2, aspen & riparian woodland	N
Pygmy nuthatch	Focal	N	S4	1-PP, 2, 7-large trees	N
Brown creeper	Focal	N	S4	1-MC, 7-large trees	N
Olive-sided flycatcher (NTMB)	Focal	N	S3B	1, 2, 7 –burns, clearings, edges	N
Hermit thrush	Focal	N	S4	1-MC, 7-dense, multi-canopy conifers	N
Chipping sparrow (NTMB)	Focal	N	S4	7- open understory w/regen.	N

Species	Status[1]	Habitat or Species Present?	Natureserve ranking in Oregon[2]	Possibly Limiting Habitat Feature[3]	Will Project Potentially Impact Species or Habitat?
Nashville warbler (NTMB)	Focal	N	S4	Riparian, deciduous woodland	N
Ash-throated flycatcher	Focal	N	S4	Scrub, juniper	N
Sage thrasher (NTMB)	Focal	N	S4	Sage and mt. mahoghany	N
Gray flycatcher (NTMB)	Focal	N	S4	3	N
Clark's nutcracker	Focal	N	S4	High elevation forest	N
Loggerhead shrike	BCC, Focal	N	S3B, S2N	Open habitats with scattered shrubs and trees	N
Sage sparrow	BCC, Focal	N	S4	3-sagebrush habitats	N
Brewer's sparrow	BCC, Focal	N	S4	Sagebrush	N
Virginia's Warbler	BCC, Focal	N	S4	6-Mountain mahogany	N
Great blue heron	MIS	N	S4	Wetland, marsh	N
Waterfowl	MIS	N		Lakes, streams, rivers	N
Wilson's Phalarope	BCC, HPSB	N	S4		N
Sandhill crane	Focal	N	S3	Wetlands, meadows	N
MAMMALS					
Rocky Mt. elk	MIS	N	S5	(7-grass, shrubs winter rng.)	N
Mule deer	**MIS**	**Y**	**S5**	**(7-shrubs winter rng.)**	**N**
American marten	MIS	N	S3	X (1-MC, LPP, 7-CWM)	N
Western big-eared bat	MIS	N	S2	(3-foraging, 6-caves)	N
SURVEY AND MANAGE SPECIES					
Crater Lake Tightcoil	S&M	N		Riparian	N

NTMB = Neotropical Migratory Bird

[1] Status: MIS – Management Indicator Species, BCC - USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (USDI 2002), HPSB - USFWS High Priority Shore Birds (USDI 2004), Focal – Species identified in the Conservation for Landbirds of the East-Slope of the Cascade Mountains in OR and WA (Altman 2000) and the Conservation Strategy for Landbirds in the Columbia Plateau of Eastern OR and WA (Altman and Holmes 2000), S&M – Northwest Forest Plan Survey and Manage Species.

[2] Oregon Sensitive Species determined from the Natureserve database for Oregon: S2 = imperiled, S3 = vulnerable, S4 = apparently secure,
S5 = secure, B = breeding, N = non-breeding

[3] Habitat feature codes: 1 = late and old successional forest (LOS), 2 = snags, 3 = mature shrubs, 4 = dense conifers for nesting/foraging, 5 = meadows or grassy openings for foraging, 6 = special/unique habitats (rock, cliffs, caves, etc.), 7 = other, noted. Abbreviations: LPP = lodgepole pine, PP = ponderosa pine, MC = mixed conifer, CWM = coarse woody materials (logs and limbs > 3" in diameter).

Effects Analysis

Potential impacts of the activity/project for the species associated with the affected area are as follows:

Northern Flicker: *Deschutes Management Indicator Species*

Northern flickers are perhaps the most common woodpecker residents in Oregon. They can be found in a range of terrestrial habitat but are generally abundant in open forests and forest edges adjacent to open country (Marshall et al 2003). Being a large cavity nester they require large snags or large trees with decay in order to build their nests.

The ponderosa pine that occurs within the project area provides for foraging habitat for the northern flicker. The project does not contain any snags and so does not provide any nesting habitat. This species could potentially utilize the remnant juniper shrub lands in the adjacent areas for nesting.

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects Discussion

The loss of patches of ponderosa pine trees that occur within the project area would reduce foraging habit for northern flickers that nest adjacent to the project area, but this

activity would not lead to a regional reduction of this species. Several portions of the project would retain clumps of ponderosa pine, which would continue to be utilized.

The habitat surrounding the project area is currently being developed with subdivisions and soon the Bend Metro Parks and Recreation facilities. Loss of habitat has occurred and would continue to occur in this area with the population growth occurring in Bend. This project would reduce a minor amount of foraging habitat. No cumulative impacts area expected to occur from this project.

Mule deer: *Management Indicator Species*
The BPWC parcel and the surrounding area occur within mule deer winter range as well as transition range for deer to move to the Cascade Summering grounds. Deer also utilize the area during the summer (one was seen in the southeastern end of the project area during field reconnaissance during August). The project area does contain some bitterbrush habitat that is used for foraging by deer that move through the parcel and still contains areas that deer can use for hiding cover. The effectiveness of this and the surrounding area as deer winter range is decreasing as the area surrounding the project area is developed.

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects Discussion
This project as proposed would not only reduce foraging and hiding cover within the project area, but would also prevent deer access to the property (approximately 20 of the 26 acre parcel would be fenced). Direct and indirect impacts would depend on the importance of this project area as it relates to the surrounding areas. The remoteness of this area is quickly changing. Housing developments are occurring, and soon the Bend Metro Park and Recreation facilities would be constructed.

This continued growth in the adjacent private lands surrounding the project area would change and/or limit deer travel through the area, regardless of the future use of the parcel.

Conclusions
The New Office Collocation Construction Project area does not provide critical habitat for any wildlife species. The area provides habitat for the species described above, but the quality and effectiveness of the habitat is low because of the urban growth surrounding the project area.

Invasive Plants

Aggressive non-native plants, invasive plants, can invade and displace native plant communities causing long-lasting management problems. These are grouped into noxious weeds and other exotic species. The effects discussion includes both groupings.

The proposed project was given a HIGH risk ranking for the spread of invasive plants for each alternative because of the high numbers of weeds currently present on the site. Vectors such as motorized vehicles that can spread weeds will be present. To gain a high rating, a site has to have known weeds in or adjacent to the project area.

Noxious Weeds

These invasive plants are designated by the State. There are populations of spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) and diffuse knapweed (*C. diffusa*) along all roads within the property, at field edges, at building edges, along the roads on the perimeter of the property, and along the canal that flows through the property. Dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) is located on the rock outcrops.

Herbicide spraying has occurred at the site targeting only knapweed, as authorized by the 1998 Noxious Weed Control EA. The seed bank is large and it will take persistence to eradicate the populations. Spraying does not include the other mentioned weeds. Presently, the Forest Service is using Biocontrol agents (insects) to control two populations of toadflax.

Other Exotic Species

These invasive plants are also aggressive though are not officially termed "noxious". There are species of weedy plants, such as flixweed (*Descaurania sophia*), tumblemustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), mullein (*Verbascum thapsis*), and salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*). These species are commonly found in central Oregon, especially in disturbed areas, and are not unique to the Nursery property.

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): This alternative provides the lowest level of management of the site in the future. It is least likely to reduce the invasive plant species populations.

Alternative 2: More land would become unavailable for the establishment of invasive species because it will be paved over or have buildings constructed over it. A temporary seedbed as a result of construction and development could provide for invasive species growth within this parcel. Increased management activity (landscaping) would have a more positive effect as more aggressive management could reduce invasive plant populations more readily and for more long-term.

Cumulative Effects: In surrounding subdivisions, weeds have not been effectively managed where individual landowners are responsible for monitoring and eliminating the problems. These weeds could spread to the BPWC site. This could necessitate more invasive plant control on the site in the future.

Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive (PETS) Plants

PETS Plants would not be affected by the proposed project. The BPWC is not especially diverse nor is it an especially good example of a representative flora of the area. It lies in a western juniper/sagebrush-bitterbrush/cheatgrass plant association. There is a low probability that any TES plant species would occur there. A field survey in June 1993 in

a portion of land since been conveyed to the city of Bend was performed and no Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive plant species were found.

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects
There are no expected direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to TES plants from either alternative, because there is no habitat for them.

Heritage Resource

Cultural resource inventories have failed to locate any significant prehistoric or historic archaeological resources or sites. Surveys prior to 2002 Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance EA determined that no significant archaeological resources are located on the Bend Pine Nursery property.

The BPWC complex has 18 building structures, including the main office, a seed extractory, and a large tree cooler that are being used by the Forest Service for various activities. An evaluation of the buildings and the landscape indicates that these features are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects
There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impact to historic resources from either alternative because none are located in the proposed action area..

Water Quality and Fisheries

With implementation of either alternative, little impact would occur on a watershed scale. The land does not lie within a key watershed for fish habitat restoration or other ecosystem restoration. The land does not play any particular role in the protection or improvement of water quality. No wetlands would be affected by the proposed project, and the property is not located within a floodplain. The property currently has a water right certificate for surface irrigation water via Swalley Irrigation District. The proposed action would comply with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 which address floodplains and wetlands. The proposed action would comply with the Bend Code, Chapter 10-10, Development Code.

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): Water use and runoff would continue as is presently occurring. Water quality and fish would not be affected.

Alternative 2: Development would alter storm water runoff. Surfacing of roads and parking areas, and developing buildings would increase surface runoff. To mitigate the increase in surface runoff, on-site storm water retention areas would be developed. These areas would prevent storm water from leaving the property. Water quality and fish would not be affected.

Cumulative Effects: There would be no cumulative effects with implementation of Alternative 2.

Soils

Soils are mainly Deskamp series. Because surface layers are loamy sands, wind erosion is a concern. The soil is also classified as highly permeable. Most of the cobbles and stones from the soil surface have been removed where seedbeds were located. Manure and chemicals were added to the soils during the former nursery operations.

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): Current conditions of the soils would remain the same in the short-term. In the long-term, soils would become less fertile than they are now due to the high permeability of the soil. The previously added nutrients would leach out of the soil and unless additional fertilizer is added, the soils would eventually revert back to pre-fertilized condition.

Alternative 2: Development would be dedicated to permanent facilities (buildings, roads, parking lots, walkways). Approximately 10 acres of soil would be placed in a non-productive state and would become unavailable for vegetative growth because of development. The remaining approximately 16 acres would be landscaped and irrigated, maintaining soil productivity.

Cumulative Effects: There would be no cumulative effects.

Social Ecology

A variety of administrative facilities and structures, with varying size, shape, and architectural styling, were built to support the previous nursery operation. This parcel of land has continued to be used as a work center for storage and for various Forest activities since active nursery operations ceased and 184 acres of the site were conveyed to the Bend Metro Park and Recreation District. The administrative site would remain an administrative site regardless of the alternative that is chosen.

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): Use of the administrative site would not change from existing use in the foreseeable future. There would be no change in noise levels that would affect adjacent neighbors to the property.

Alternative 2: This project would change the location of the District and Forest Headquarters offices, but office activities would not change. There would not be a change in the type of use of this parcel, but the scale would increase. Use of the administrative site would continue to utilize the site as a work center with the present use continuing at the site. With placement of the District and Forest Headquarters office, fire suppression offices and equipment, vehicle storage, and increased storage for the District, Forest operations and support and an increase in personnel would occur. An increase in noise would occur during construction and an increase in traffic, particularly during arrival to and departure from work by employees. The increase in traffic to the administration site would be approximately 200 plus employees during off season (Nov. through April), and approximately 330 visitors and employees during peak season (May to Oct). Increased traffic on local roads has been addressed by the County through a detailed traffic impact analysis. The previously approved connection between 27th Street and Empire Avenue will be completed and provide for better flow of traffic for both neighbors and those that use the administrative site.

Cumulative Effects: Development on adjacent lands would increase the local population and use of roads in the nearby vicinity. Use of Deschutes Market Road would likely experience an increase in traffic. The traffic study that will be performed will determine traffic flow.

Other Considerations

Consumers, Civil Rights, Minorities, and Women

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice, requires the Forest Service to consider and disclose effects that have the potential to disproportionately adversely affect minority or low-income populations. Effects of alternatives on the human environment are expected to be similar for all human populations, regardless of nationality, gender, race, or income.

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): Retaining Forest use of the administrative site would not change opportunities of use by or for consumers, minorities, or women. There would be no effect to any group.

Alternative 2: Altering Forest use of the administrative site would not change opportunities of use by or for consumers, minorities, or women. There would be no effect to any group. There would be an increase in the use by these groups of this administrative site because the change of location consolidation of District and SO

offices and public information resources would require this site to be used. There would be no disproportionate effect to women or minorities.

Cumulative Effects: There would be no cumulative effects.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Irreversible commitments of resources are decisions affecting nonrenewable resources such as minerals and cultural resources. These decisions also may impact factors such as soil productivity that are renewable only over long periods of time. Such commitments are considered irreversible because the resource has either been removed, or it has deteriorated to the point that renewal can only occur over a long period of time or at great expense.

Irretrievable commitments of natural resources involve the loss of production or use of the resources because of changes in ownership and use. Irretrievable resource commitments are unavoidable because managing for a given purpose will often preclude the opportunity to use those resources for other purposes.

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): Use of the site would not change. No additional irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources would occur.

Alternative 2: There would be no irreversible commitments of resources for the portions of the property used for development. There would be irretrievable commitments of resources for the portions of the property used for development. The portion of the parcel committed to such uses would be an increase of approximately 5 to 7 acres, from existing use of approximately 5 acres. This would be a negligible portion of the total land in the National Forest System.

Cumulative Effects: There would be no cumulative effects.

Prime Lands (Farm, Range, and Forest)

The Bend Pine Work Center property does not meet the criteria set forth in the USDA Land Policy as Prime Farmland. This parcel of land is not considered prime range or forest land.

Financial Return to the Government

Direct and Indirect Effects
Alternative 1 (No Action): No return to the government would be realized and the property would continue to be managed as an administration center. The Forest Service would continue to expend funds for maintenance and administration of the property.

Alternative 2: Savings would be realized because a new site would not need to be developed for the location of a new office. The Forest Service would also save

approximately $1,000,000 in rental payments each year. A portion of the BPWC site is already developed with buildings that can be utilized at this time. There is enough land to allow for the additional proposed developments. Much of the land is level, minimizing the necessity of major leveling of the land. Electricity and water are presently available to the property.

Cumulative Effects: There would be no cumulative effects.

Chapter 4 - Agencies and Publics Consulted_____

The following agencies and individuals were consulted as part of the planning process. They provided information, input, knowledge, and expertise that helped develop the issues, action alternatives, and helped to focus the analysis.

- City of Bend
- Deschutes County
- US Geological Survey

Chapter 5 – List of Preparers

This section identifies the Forest Service personnel who participated in the analysis and the preparation of the EA. For a list of organizations and individuals contacted during the scoping process, refer to the project file located at the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District.

Interdisciplinary Team

Shelley Borchert	Wildlife Biologist
Mark Macfarlane	NEPA Coordinator
Charmane Powers	Botanist
Rod Jorgenson	Soil Scientist
Steve Bigby	District Road Manager
Charles Kurtz	Facilities Engineer
David Frantz	District Planner
John Davis	Writer - Editor
Robin Gyorgyfalvy	Landscape Architect
Paul Claeyssens	Forest Archaeologist
Janine McFarland	Archaeologist