

DECISION MEMO
Westside Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project

Crooked River National Grassland
US Forest Service, Region 6
Jefferson County, Oregon
(T. 12 S., R. 11 E., Sections 1, 35, 36, and T. 12 S., R. 12 E., Sections 17, 18, 19)

I. DECISION TO BE IMPLEMENTED

A. Decision

I have decided to implement the Westside Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project on the Crooked River National Grassland. The project is approximately 10 miles southwest of Madras, OR and approximately 10 miles east of Sister, OR. This stewardship project consists of cutting and removing western juniper from dry ponderosa pine and sagebrush steppe sites on approximately 1800 acres (see Map 1 in Appendix A). This project will improve wildlife habitat and change the vegetation towards a more historic community composition. There will be no road construction or reconstruction associated with this project.

Juniper Treatments Include:

- Felling post-settlement (young), green, western juniper trees in each unit with either a chainsaw or skid-steer shear.
- Removing any felled western juniper trees that may economically offset the felling of the trees and still meet habitat and resource needs.
- The removal of juniper material is not required, if it is not economical to do so. Therefore, in some areas all western juniper tree material could be left on site.
- Leave a variable size screen/buffer (designed from the inside of the unit looking out) of uncut juniper along main roads to deter off-road vehicle travel.
- Leave approximately 20% of areas in cover clumps of at least one acre in size where appropriate within the unit.
- Piling and burning slash along private subdivision boundaries.

Juniper Treatment Project Design Criteria:

The following items would be required as part of project implementation.

- Prohibit cutting old growth juniper of any diameter. Old growth juniper is identified by growth form characteristics, such as: a) trees have reached their maximum size, b) height growth has slowed or ceased, c) tree crowns are in various states of decline with sparse canopies, dead limbs, spike tops, and spreading, flattened tops, d) tree boles are generally hollow, e) bark is deeply furrowed, fibrous, and reddish in color, f) branches are covered

with fruticose lichens (Miller, R.M. 1995, Agee 1993). Size is not a factor. This will be accomplished by utilizing a “designation by prescription” or “individual tree mark.”

- Prohibit cutting any ponderosa pine or dead juniper.
- Restrict juniper felling to April 1 through November 15 to reduce disturbance to big game on the Mule Deer Winter Range.
- Prohibit mechanical based activities during the wet season. These activities will only occur during dry soil periods, frozen ground, or over snow. “Frozen ground” or “over snow” is described as six inches of frozen ground, four inches of frozen ground and one foot of snow, or more than 24 inches of snow.
 - Where harvest removal is required on “frozen ground” or “over snow,” limit mechanical based activities to one unit at a time from November 16 through March 31 and to times when deer/elk are not concentrated in the area to reduce disturbance to big game on the Mule Deer Winter Range.
- Lop western juniper slash to extend no more than three feet above the ground surface where fuels/visuals are a concern.
 - Leave slash unlopped near roads where deterring off-road vehicle traffic is a concern.
- Pull back western juniper slash 10-15 feet from the boles of ponderosa pine trees or lop the material so that it extends no more than one foot above the ground surface in ponderosa pine stands.
- Skid trail designation will be dependent on the type of equipment utilized to accomplish the work (See Soils Specialist Report, on file at the CRNG, for specific approaches.
- Permit multiple single passes (out and back) off main trails for skid-steer juniper cutting or removal.
- Minimize skid trail visibility from main roads by utilizing remaining slash or whole trees.
- Do not remove western juniper larger than seedlings/saplings from within 10 feet of a Class IV RHCA (Channel type 2 & 3).
- Provide a 50 foot buffer for ground based equipment from all Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs).
- Designate RHCA crossings by ground-based equipment prior to operations.
 - Soil entering the channel at crossings during yarding activities would be removed after completion of the operation or prior to flow.
 - Construct water bars, dips, or other water diversion at stream crossing approaches after completion of operations, or prior to the rainy season, whichever comes first.

- Cover designated RHCA crossings with slash.
- Do not operate ground based equipment on slopes greater than 10 percent in the canyon area in Unit F.
- Do not place landings in swales or within 50 feet of Class IV RHCAs (all channel types).
- Avoid scabland habitat (identified by presence of rigid or low sage) with mechanized equipment.
- Heritage sites will be avoided with mechanical equipment and any juniper slash created from cutting within them will be limited to levels that would not generate significant effects to heritage resource sites should they burn in a wildfire. Should any new sites be discovered, all operations will stop and a Grassland archaeologist will be notified. Operations will not continue until an assessment is complete and further project design criteria are identified.
- Clean all equipment to be operated within the project area in a manner sufficient to prevent noxious weeds from being carried onto the project area. This requirement does not apply to passenger vehicles or other equipment operated exclusively on roads. Cleaning will occur off National Grassland administered lands and will be inspected and approved by the administrator of the contract or agreement.
- Clean all equipment operating within the project area before leaving the site, in a manner sufficient to prevent noxious weeds from being carried out of the project area. This requirement does not apply to passenger vehicles or other equipment operated exclusively on roads.
- If road maintenance activities are required within infested portions of existing roads, the road maintenance equipment will be cleaned prior to moving out of the infested area.
- Avoid equipment travel through medusahead infestations.
- If rock will be needed, inspect road rock source pits/quarries for noxious weed infestations prior to use. Do not utilize rock source material contaminated with high priority weed propagules, or pit use will be managed to ensure contaminated materials are not transported and deposited in other locations.
- Seed areas of bare/disturbed soil (including but not limited to: skid trails, landings, and equipment staging areas).
 - Seed will be certified weed free (all states noxious weed certification).
 - Utilize a seed mix including at least one grass species which grows readily in the absence of the A soil horizon, and which is moderately to strongly rhizomatous.
 - Utilize a seed mix including one fast germinating, non-persistent annual grass species to provide immediate (relatively) ground cover.

- With the exception of the non-persistent ground cover discussed above, only native species will be utilized in the seed mix.
- Seed application rates will be high (20-30 lbs/acre pure live seed basis) to compensate for the broadcast method of application, and to generate vegetative densities adequate to provide deterrence to noxious weed invasion.
- Complete a noxious weed inventory if new noxious weed infestations do occur within the project areas. Employ an early treatment strategy under the Forest's anticipated "early detection, rapid response" protocol.

B. Purpose of Decision

There are many objectives of this project but the main focus of the collaboration group is to improve wildlife habitat. Much of the management of the Grassland since the turn of the century has resulted in a reduction of the fire frequency within historic ponderosa pine/big sagebrush-bitterbrush ecotones and sagebrush steppe plant communities. As a result the range, density, and cover of western juniper has dramatically increased resulting in a scarcity of the historic community types and associated habitat for both game and non-game wildlife species.

The Crooked River National Grassland Vegetation Management/Grazing Final Environmental Impact Statement completed in 2004 shows that habitat for grass and shrub dependent wildlife bird and mammal species was deficient by at least 8,000 acres in most cases. Removing juniper from shrub steppe habitats will allow the sagebrush and bitterbrush to increase through lessened competition for essential nutrients and water. The deer and elk that reside within the Metolius Mule Deer Winter Range will also benefit from the increased bitterbrush available during the winter months.

The above described mix of treatments will be utilized in order to move the vegetative community composition and the associated wildlife habitat towards historic levels.

In addition the collaboration group chose to "include product removal (biomass/posts/poles/firewood) where it makes sense" (Collaboration Meeting Notes dated 1/31/07) and consider incorporating fuels and fire prevention particularly adjacent to the Air Park subdivision (Collaboration Meeting Notes dated 4/25/07).

II. REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE DECISION

The decision to implement this project can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. These activities fall within a category of actions identified in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30, Section 31.2, Category 6, "Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities which do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction." In addition I find that no extraordinary circumstances exist with the project activities that may result in a significant individual or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation. My

conclusion is based on a review of the project record that shows relevant, scientific information was used in describing the expected environmental consequences.

I considered the following resource conditions in making my determination that extraordinary circumstances related to the project did not warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the degree of the potential effect on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstances exist.

A. Effects Related to Extraordinary Circumstances

The site locations have been reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of resource professionals and evaluated for extraordinary circumstances.

Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species or Designated Critical Habitat, Species Proposed for Federal Listing or Proposed Critical Habitat, or Forest Service Sensitive Species

There are no Threatened or Endangered (T&E) Species, species proposed for Federal Listing, Designated Critical Habitat, or proposed Critical Habitat for plants or wildlife within the project area. There would be “No Effect” (NE) to any T&E plant or wildlife species from this project.

Threatened or Endangered Species, species proposed for Federal Listing, Designated Critical Habitat, and/or proposed Critical Habitat for aquatic species do exist in this project area. Species in this project area are the bull trout and the Mid-Columbia River steelhead trout (including critical habitat). By utilizing existing project design criteria there would be “No Effect” (NE) to these T&E aquatic species. There would also be “No Adverse Affect” (NAA) on any critical habitat.

Of the 28 Forest Service Sensitive plant species documented or suspected on the Crooked River National Grassland, four have been documented or have suitable habitat in or near the proposed project area. They are: Henderson's needlegrass, Wallowa needlegrass, Peck's milkvetch, and Peck's penstemon. Existing project design criteria would minimize or avoid project-related impacts that could otherwise affect the viability of these species. There would be “No Impact” (NI) to Peck's milkvetch from this project. For the Peck's penstemon, Henderson's needlegrass, and Wallowa needlegrass, this project “May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species” (MIIH). There would be “No Impact” (NI) on the 24 other plant species without habitat in the project area.

Of the eight Forest Service Sensitive wildlife species documented or suspected on the Crooked River National Grassland, the gray flycatcher is the only one present and/or with habitat in the project area. This project may be implemented during the nesting season, if so, disturbance from chain saws and tree removal equipment “May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species” (MIIH). There would be “No Impact” (NI) to wildlife species without habitat in the project area.

There are five Forest Service Sensitive aquatic species documented or suspected on the Crooked River National Grassland. Of those, only two have potential or suitable habitat within the area of influence of this project. These species are redband trout and Columbia spotted frog. By utilizing existing project design criteria there would be “No Impact” (NI) to either of these species. There would be “No Impact” (NI) to aquatic species without habitat in the project area. There would also be “No Adverse Affect” (NAA) to Chinook salmon EFH from this project.

Congressionally designated areas, inventoried roadless areas, research natural areas, floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds, American Indian religious or cultural sites or historic properties.

Treatments would not result in impacts to congressionally designated areas, inventoried roadless areas, research natural areas, floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds as there are none within the project area.

Heritage resource sites (American Indian religious or cultural sites, or historic properties) are located adjacent to but outside of the project area. These sites will not be disturbed. Heritage resource sites are also known to occur in the project area. Heritage survey has identified heritage resource sites within the project area. These sites will be avoided; no mechanical equipment will be allowed to operate within them. Juniper would be removed on the homestead era sites and features would be retained.

I have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist, and no potentially significant effects were identified during the scoping process or in field reviews.

B. Other Anticipated Effects

The district is aware of several noxious weed sites located adjacent to and within the project areas. Project unit design and project design criteria will be utilized to prevent the spread of noxious weeds (see Juniper Treatment Project Design Criteria on pages 3 and 4 of this document).

I have determined that felling and harvesting juniper within areas designated under this project will not significantly affect, either individually or cumulatively, the quality of the human environment.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During early 2005, a group of land owners, management agencies, industry representatives, tribal representatives, and interested parties was assembled. The purpose was to collaborate in addressing the land management needs on the portion of the Crooked River National Grassland west of the Crooked River and south of the Metolius arm of Lake Billy Chinook. The proposed treatment in this document represents just a small portion of this area.

During the 2006-2007 collaboration efforts, we found the group to be generally supportive of juniper cutting to improve wildlife habitat. Issues surfaced such as: mule deer winter range

improvement and protection, impacts to the ground from mechanical removal of juniper, invasive weeds, increased road density, and illegal off-road vehicle travel. This proposal addresses the issues and concerns through the project design. See the Juniper Treatment Project Design Criteria on pages 1 - 4 of this document for specific examples.

The collaboration group has also tentatively selected monitoring protocols to follow post project implementation.

This project was listed in all of the 2006 and 2007 *Schedule of Proposed Actions*.

On July 18, 2007 letters were mailed hard copy or by computer to 144 individuals, organizations and other agencies informing them of the opportunity to comment on this project. On July 20, 2007, a legal notice soliciting public input was placed in the Bend Bulletin and in the Madras Pioneer newspapers. The 30 day comment period ended on July 20, 2007. During the 30-day comment period, two emails and one phone call were received. We received comments relating to soils, Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, noxious weed prevention, project objectives, extraction of materials, other management factors, atmospheric carbon levels, and requests for additional/clarifying information.

All comments are briefly summarized below and are then followed by a discussion of how they were considered.

Soils

It was suggested that detrimental soil impacts from this project do not exceed 20%. “What are the impacts to the soil from the multiple singe passes? What are the soil types and soil vulnerabilities?”

The Soils Specialist Report for this project (on file at the Crooked River National Grassland office) discussed specific soils information by treatment unit in Table 1 (See Appendix B of this document for the table). This table lists existing and estimated post treatment detrimental soils conditions for each specific unit.

The specific soil vulnerabilities are covered on pages 7 and 8 of the Soils Specialist Report in regards to local ash capped soils. Below is an excerpt from that report.

“The typical Procter curve shows us a comparatively flat form (for ashy textures of silt loam, loam and sandy loam), indicating the compaction process is not as moisture sensitive in ash soils as in others. Thus, moisture content restrictions for harvest and other ground based equipment operations are impractical for controlling compaction. Unpublished data by McNabb shows that ash materials compacted quite rapidly. USDA Forest Service, R6; 1983. Draft Management Guidelines or Soils Derived from Volcanic Ash in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington.

Local central Oregon monitoring of largely winter logged juniper stands showed that conventional logging and mechanical logging systems were not significantly different. Most of the compaction occurred in the surface to 4 inch zone. Dodson, E.M; Deboodt, T.; Hudspeth, G; 2006; Production, Cost and Soil Compaction Estimates for Two Western Juniper Extraction Systems, WJAF 21(4) 2006. This surface compaction is commonly ameliorated by freeze thaw action in ashy sandy loam textures. (Ahmed, H, 1987 et al) and personal observation, J. David, ONF.

For further details see the Soil Survey of Upper Deschutes River Area, Oregon, including parts of Deschutes, Jefferson and Klamath Counties, published by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1992. It is an Order III ecological unit survey made at the 2.64 inches per mile (1/24,000 scale)

Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas

It was suggested that equipment should avoid RHCA and riparian area crossings.

The CRNG is not proposing to have stream crossings on intermittent streams in the planning area every 50-100 feet on skid trails. Designated temporary stream crossings would be minimized and Best Management Practices implemented to maintain channel integrity and minimize sediment delivery. There is no riparian vegetation associated with the intermittent streams in the planning area. Operators would not operate ground based equipment in Class IV streams except at designated crossings. Stream crossings would only be used when the stream is dry. Soil entering the channel during yarding activities would be removed after completion of the operation or prior to flow. The operator would construct water bars, dips, or other water diversion at stream crossing approaches after completion of operations, or prior to the rainy season, whichever comes first. As Pierson, et al. (2007) found in their juniper treatment study at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in the long term, increased grass and herbaceous growth resulting from juniper removal substantially reduces sheet and rill erosion and increases the intensity and reduces the frequency of storms necessary to produce runoff. Restated, sediment delivery to the streams in the planning area would be decreased in the long term.

Although there are no roads proposed in this project, INFISH Standards & Guidelines allow roading within RHCAs. In a letter dated September 22, 1995, Implementation of the Inland Native Fish Strategy, question 13 on page A-3 responds, "When analyzing any action, not just roads, both short and long-term effects must be considered and managed. While short-term effects must not be great enough to jeopardize the RMOs, avoidance of all short-term effects should not be allowed to preclude management changes or restoration actions necessary for the long-term recovery of habitats and/or populations."

An explanation of stream types was requested.

The Forest GIS stream layer classifies all streams shown on the USGS maps in this project area as intermittent (Class IV). The R-6 supplement under which Forest stream classes were established stated that intermittent streams flow part of the year, have well defined channels and show signs of scouring, washing, sorting of bed material and/or evidence of riparian vegetation even though they may only flow during or immediately after precipitation or melting of snow. Intermittent streams normally lack litter in late spring and early summer, but may develop accumulations of litter or vegetation by the fall or during periods of prolonged drought. Definitions in PACFISH indicate that ephemeral streams that have defined channels and evidence of annual scour or deposition should be classified as intermittent. By these definitions, most of the stream reaches shown on the USGS maps in this project area would have 50 foot RHCAs under INFISH.

Class IV is the predominate type of RHCA identified in this project area. The term wash bank was utilized to describe the channel. There is no riparian vegetation associated with these Class IV streams, they are comprised of dirt and rock.

Noxious Weeds

It was suggested that noxious weeds should be prevented from spreading, not just minimized.

The prevention of noxious weed spread and establishment is intended to be maximized by minimizing the conditions that encourage invasive species while conducting treatments that will favor herbaceous species.

It was suggested that the Grassland utilize non-chemical methods first in the early treatment strategy and if they are necessary then prioritize by using the most benign herbicide first.

The “early detection, rapid response” protocol is intended to determine the types of noxious weed treatment to apply based upon both efficacy and environmental criteria.

Road Closures and Decommissioning

There were questions why the Geneva III Fire Rehabilitation proposal from the collaborative group was not brought forward in this decision memo.

This Geneva III Fire Rehabilitation is not included in this decision memo because the Forest Service does not have jurisdiction over most of the roads proposed for seasonal closures/decommissioning. The main roads in question are either public use or county roads under the jurisdiction of Jefferson County. The collaborative group intends to meet during the winter of 2007 to finalize a proposal to bring to the Jefferson County commissioners. The exact Forest Service roads to be closed/decommissioned will be determined after the County’s final decision and a new decision memo will be written at that time.

Extraction and Restoration

There was a question about why this project is “extraction-oriented” since it is a restoration project.

The collaborative group set the goals and objectives for this project. Although the main focus of the project is “wildlife habitat improvement”, another objective is to “include product removal (biomass/posts/poles/firewood) where it makes sense” (Collaboration Meeting Notes dated 1/31/07). Wood products will not be removed from every acre of these units. There are many areas where equipment is not allowed – hence removal would be impossible. In many of these cases the cut and unlopped juniper will serve as habitat and micro sites for small mammals and ground nesting birds as well as provide a deterrent to OHV travel which degrades habitat function (Collaboration Meeting Notes dated 3/28/07).

Another objective for this project is to incorporate fuels and fire prevention. In many parts of these units, if the juniper slash was left on the ground, there would be an even greater risk of losing wildlife habitat in the event of a wildfire. One of these units is also adjacent to the Air Park subdivision and the desire is to remove as much of the juniper (whole tree removal is preferred) as possible to decrease the risk of an uncontrollable wildfire spreading from Federal to private land (Collaboration Meeting Notes dated 4/25/07).

Administrative Process to be Utilized

It was suggested that the comment letter was unclear in the “administrative process to be used”.

The Forest Service proposal for comment stated: “The decision to implement this project can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment...At this point in the analysis, it appears there will not be any extraordinary circumstances, and this project will likely be categorically excluded.” When this proposal was written, a CE seemed the most appropriate tool to use. Through the collaboration process, no extraordinary circumstances were identified. In addition, the preliminary reports did not show any significant effects to the environment.

Utilizing Other Management Factors

It was suggested that removing livestock and reintroducing fire be included as part of this project.

The project area was closed to grazing by domestic livestock in the 2004 Record of Decision for the Crooked River National Grassland Vegetation Management/Grazing EIS. However, this area had not been grazed for several years prior to that decision. While the reintroduction of fire on the landscape is a long term goal, the collaboration group as well as rangeland vegetation, wildlife habitat and fuels specialists, determined that considerable vegetative recovery and fuels management is necessary prior to achieving that goal.

Atmospheric Carbon Levels

The Forest Service was requested to consider that “juniper expansion might be a response to CO₂ enrichment of the atmosphere... the "extra" carbon that is being sequestered in areas where juniper is expanding, might help mitigate carbon that is being lost in other areas.”

The collaboration group did consider that the expansion of western juniper may be associated with climatic warming and/or increase atmospheric carbon levels. In considering this the collaboration group found that the proposal improved the carbon dioxide issue in three ways:

- 1. The western juniper removed would potentially be made available for cogeneration and/or fuelwood. Over time a more consistent availability of biomass for these purposes is expected to facilitate private development of biomass cogeneration and offset fossil fuel usage.*
- 2. Felling of western juniper trees without burning the slash is expected to increase soil organic matter and sequester carbon in the soil profile.*
- 3. The reestablishment and enhancement of grass and shrub species will result in a more rapid, below ground biomass turnover and may therefore sequester more carbon in the soil profile.*

Ponderosa Pine vs. Western Juniper

There were questions about the functional differences between pine and juniper on the landscape and why one might be more favorable than the other.

While there is no question that ponderosa pine and western juniper function differently from an ecological perspective, the intent of the project is to move towards a historic habitat composition. The presence of presettlement era juniper and ponderosa pine within the

project area indicate the habitats within which we would expect both to occur and the project is designed to maintain and enhance these species within their historic habitats.

Additional Information/Changes

There were requests for additional clarifying information/changes. This information has been incorporated into the document relative to the following topics.

- *Purpose of the Decision*
- *Juniper Felling*
- *Old Growth Juniper Definition*
- *Road screen/Buffer*
- *Cover Clumps*
- *Timing Restrictions for the Metolius Mule Deer Winter Range*
- *Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas and Class IV buffers*
- *Noxious Weed Prevention*
- *Project Map and Acres*

IV. FINDINGS REQUIRED BY AND/OR RELATED TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This action, including the project design criteria (see the Juniper Treatment Project Design Criteria on pages 1 - 4 of this document for specific examples) is consistent with the Record of Decision for the Crooked River National Grassland and Resource Management Plan. This action would comply with existing laws including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act.

A. Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898)

Public involvement did not identify any adversely impacted minority or low-income populations. This decision is not expected to adversely impact minority or low-income populations.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

My decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR 215. Individuals or organizations who submitted comments during the 30-day comment period specified at 215.6 may appeal my decision. Any notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14.

Any appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Appeals submitted via fax should be sent to (541) 416-6695. Appeals can be filed electronically at: appeals-pacificnorthwest-ochoco@fs.fed.us.

Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in plain text (.txt), Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable

document format (.pdf). E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the appellant to confirm receipt of appeals submitted by electronic mail.

The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of the legal notice announcing this decision in *The Bulletin* newspaper, Bend, Oregon. Attachments received after the 45-day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date in *The Bulletin* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. If any appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of disposition of the last appeal.

VII. CONTACT PERSON

Further information about this decision can be obtained from Anne Roberts during normal office hours (weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Crooked River National Grassland office.

Contact Information:

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VIII. SIGNATURE AND DATE

Slater R. Turner
District Ranger

Date

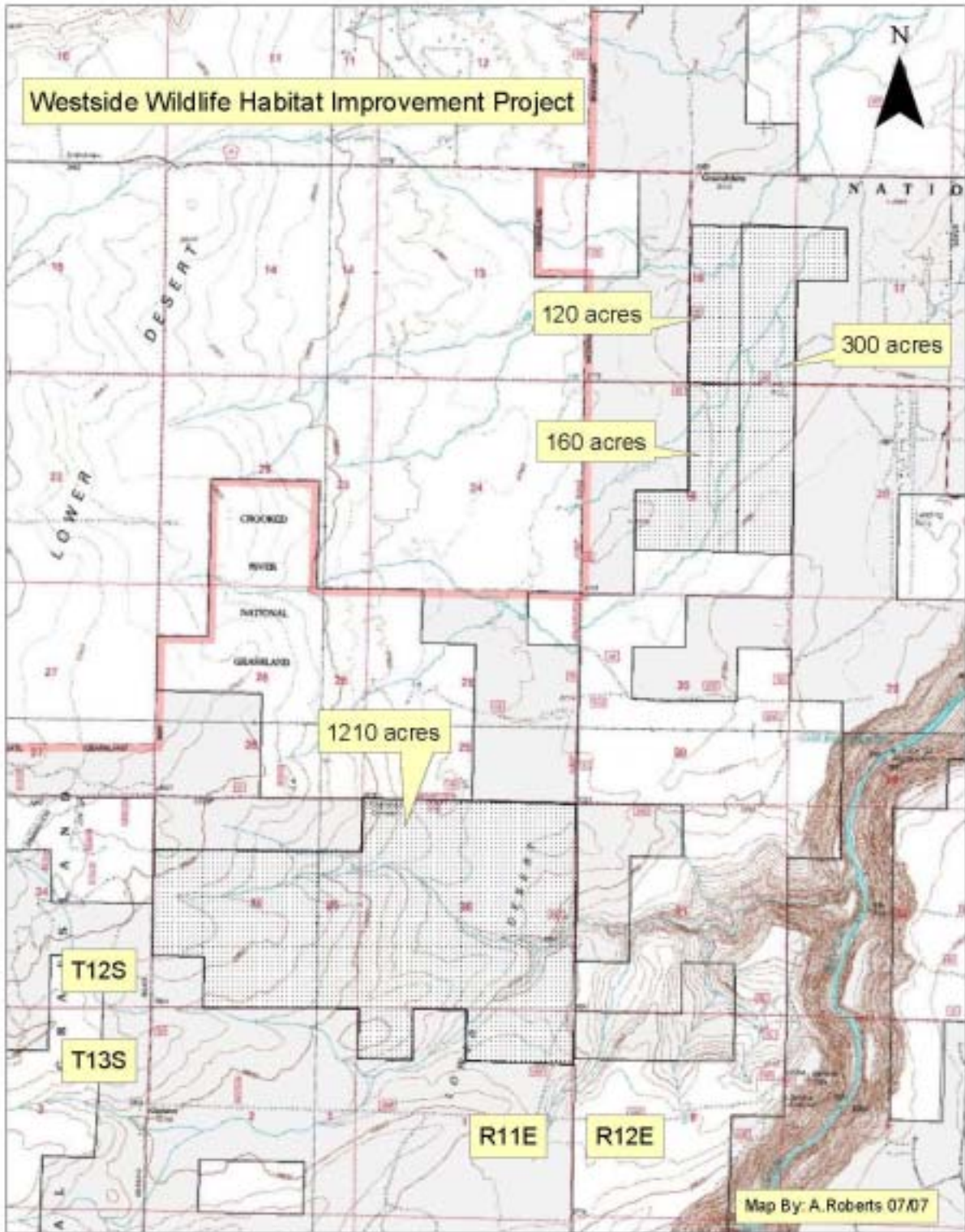
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APPENDIX A

Map 1. Project Boundary Map



APPENDIX B

TABLE 1: Existing and Expected Detrimental Soil Conditions for the Westside Project

Unit	Acres	Soil Type	Estimated % Existing Detrimental Conditions	Estimated % Post Harvest Detrimental Conditions	Tillage Suitability
Airpark	300	7A-Bakeoven-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	Low for Bakeoven, moderate for Agency-Madras
		3B-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	
B	116	3B-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	Low for Bakeoven, moderate for Agency-Madras
		7A-Bakeoven-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	
C	165	7A-Bakeoven-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	Low for Bakeoven, moderate for Agency-Madras
		3B-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	
F	1210	7ABakeoven-Agency-Madras Complex	5	15	Low for Bakeoven, moderate for Agency-Madras
		118D-Simas-Ruckles Complex 15-45% slopes	1	1	Low to none for Simas Ruckles

(USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; 1992; Soil Survey of Upper Deschutes River Area, Oregon, including parts of Deschutes, Jefferson and Klamath Counties. This is an Order III ecological unit survey made at the 2.64 inches per mile (1/24,000 scale)