

**South River Programmatic Restoration
Environmental Assessment
(EA # OR-105-04-03)**

**Decision Documentation
Culvert Replacement on Unnamed Tributary to W. Fork Canyon Creek**

**South River Field Office, Roseburg District
Date Prepared: May 9, 2006**

Decision:

It is my decision to authorize replacement of a stream-crossing culvert located on an unnamed tributary to the W. Fork Canyon Creek with a steel girder, concrete deck bridge. The project site is on BLM-managed lands in the SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, Section 11; NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, Section 14; and NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, Section 15 in T. 31 S., R. 5 W., W.M. Field Office hydrology and fisheries personnel, and District Office engineering staff have identified the culvert as a source of sediment, an impediment to upstream and downstream passage by both native and anadromous fish, and at risk of failure in the near term.

A temporary bypass road will be constructed to provide access around the project site during removal of the culvert and construction of the bridge. Stream banks will be armored with riprap to protect the bridge abutments, and rock weirs will be placed in-stream to facilitate fish passage and protect upstream aquatic habitat.

Bridge design incorporates requirements of *the Oregon Road/Stream Crossing Restoration Guide* published by the Oregon Department of Forestry in 1999. Installation will incorporate Best Management Practices from the *Roseburg District Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP, Appendix D, pp. 134-136). Among the project design features and controls to be implemented are:

- Required pressure washing or steam cleaning of all excavation and earth-moving equipment prior to mobilization into the project site, to minimize the risk of introducing soil from outside the project area that may be contaminated with noxious weed seed or root materials. Disturbed areas will be seeded and mulched or otherwise revegetated.
- Restriction of in-stream construction activities to the period between July 1 and September 15, during low summer stream flows.
- Diversion of any surface stream flow or pumping of water around the project site during construction activities and in-stream equipment operation minimized to the extent practicable.
- Prior to the commencement of work, absorbent booms will be installed downstream of the project site to contain any inadvertent spillage of petroleum products.
- End haul of any resulting waste material to an authorized upland disposal site.

Rationale for the Decision:

This project was analyzed under Alternative 2, the “proposed action”, of the South River Programmatic Restoration EA. Implementation of the project will meet the objective of reducing sediment associated with roads and stream crossings, and will restore access by fish to an estimated 2.5 miles of upstream habitat. Alternative 1, the “no action” alternative, would not achieve these ends.

Replacement of the existing culvert with a bridge will not result in any undue environmental degradation, and is consistent with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (ROD/RMP, pp. 20-21). Specifically, it will aid in maintenance and restoration of: in-stream flows; spatial and temporal connectivity in the watershed; natural sediment regime; and aquatic habitat. It is also consistent with the management objective “To preclude stream crossings from being a direct source of sediment to streams thus minimizing water quality degradation and provide unobstructed movement for aquatic fauna.” (ROD/RMP, p. 134)

Potential effects to fish and Essential Fish Habitat are associated with sediment. With application of the project design features described above and identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service *Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion for Programmatic Activities Affecting SONC Coho Salmon, OC Coho Salmon, and OC Steelhead* the effects will be localized and short term, and will not have an adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat.

The project area was surveyed those Special Status and Survey & Manage botanical species whose known or suspected range includes the Roseburg District is within the range. The results of these surveys were negative and no effects to any of the aforementioned species are anticipated.

The site does not contain nesting, roosting and foraging habitat for the Federally threatened northern spotted owl, nor is it within ¼-mile of any owl activity center, so there would be “no effect” on owls with respect to disturbance or modification of suitable habitat and no owl related seasonal restrictions on operations are required.

The project area contains suitable habitat for the Oregon shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta hertleini*), a Bureau Sensitive species, and Chace Sideband snail (*Monadenia chaceana*), a Bureau Sensitive species also covered under the tenets of the Survey and Manage program. Surveys for the two species located a single specimen of the shoulderband snail approximately 30 feet from the centerline of the planned bypass road. The location is designated on the ground and is expected to survive because construction activities would be limited to within 7 to 8 feet of the marked centerline and habitat conditions would be maintained, allowing for the expected persistence of the shoulderband snail site.

Public Comment:

No issues were identified by any local or tribal governments, State agencies, or other Federal agencies. The EA and Finding of No Significant Impact were made available for public review from May 5, 2004, through June 4, 2004. Comments were received from two organizations. These comments did not constitute new information or identify any issues not already considered and addressed in the Myrtle Creek Watershed Restoration EA, the ROD/RMP, or the Roseburg District *Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*.

Monitoring:

Monitoring will be done in accordance with provisions contained in the ROD/RMP, Appendix I (p. 84, 190-191, & 195-199), focusing on the following resources: Riparian Reserves; Water and Soils; Wildlife Habitat; Fish Habitat; and Special Status and Special Attention Species Habitat.

Protest Procedures:

As outlined in Title 43 CFR § 5003 - Administrative Remedies, protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication date of the Decision Notice in *The News-Review*, Roseburg, Oregon.

In Title 43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (b) it is stated that "Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision." This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail or facsimile protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the Roseburg District Office will be accepted.

William Haigh,
Field Manager
South River Field Office

Date