Forest Aquatic Restoration Project
NEPA Compliance and Implementation Checklist

Little Crane Creek Culvert - NFSR 1660-478 (MP 6.50)

Project Number: 0404-2019 **Date:** **Location:** Little Crane Creek
Category: Category 1 – Fish Passage Restoration, Category 14 – Riparian Vegetation Planting, Category 9 – Livestock Fencing

Project Description: The triple-barrel culvert crossing on FSR 1660-478 will be replaced with a single span, open bottom arch culvert designed to pass aquatic organisms and transport sediment at natural rates under a normal range of discharges up to a 100-year flood event.

Heritage (to be completed by heritage specialist)

Y	N	Initial	
☒	☐	PSD	Specific PDC for Heritage addressed (Heritage Surveys; Avoidance areas).

Botany (to be completed by botany specialist)

Y	N	Initial	
☐	☐	____	Specific PDC for Botany addressed (Sensitive Plant Surveys).
☐	☐	____	Specific PDC for Nox. Weeds addressed.

Land Management Consistency (is the proposed project within the management area? Check yes or no. If yes, comments should indicate whether proposed actions are consistent with the standards for the management area.)

Y	N	Initial		Y	N	Initial	
☐	☑	AT	4A Big Game Winter range	☐	☑	AT	9 Research Natural Areas
☐	☑	AT	6A & 6BWilderness	☐	☑	AT	10 Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Areas
☐	☑	AT	7 Scenic Area	☐	☑	AT	22/22A Wild and Scenic River
☐	☑	AT	8 Special Interest Areas	☐	☑	AT	Inventoried Roadless Areas

Comments:

Table 1. Projects Design Criteria and Forest Plan compliance checklist.

I have reviewed this project and have determined it is compliant with the Forest Plan and Aquatic EA Project Design Criteria identified for my resource.			
Resource	**Signature**	**Date**	**Comments** (additional PDCs may be noted if necessary)
Heritage		4/15/2019	With specific PDCs addressed, no effect to historic properties
Botany		4/5/2019	No TESP at culvert site but do up+ down stream. Be cognisant of moss mats and impacts to.
Invasive Plants		4/5/2019	No known infestations. Use PDC to prevent transport into culvert site
Wildlife		3/27/2019	No impacts to existing wildlife.
Fish*		3/14/2019	Consistent with all relevant PDCs for Fisheries
Hydrology*		3/14/19	Consistent with all relevent PDCs for Hydrology
Range		3/19/19	Work with Range on fence design & water for livestock
Soils	R.C. Mitnell	3/26/19	NELSON SAYS "EXISTING IMPACTS ARE GENERALLY MINOR"
Recreation		3/19/19	
Special Uses		3/20/19	No lands SUPs known/not identified w/in project vicinity.
Lands		3/20/19	POD Permit 502A1 located near or adjacent to project location.
Mining		4-7-19	No mining claims in project area
Engineering		3/23/19	
Fuels / Fire		4/15/19	No concern
Silviculture		4/1/19	No Concerns at this time

* Ensure that an experienced fisheries biologist or hydrologist is involved in the design of all projects covered by Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion II. The experience should be commensurate with technical requirements of a project.

District Environmental Coordinator: Renee Hallell Date: 4/24/19
Line Officer Signature: Date: 4/19/19

Implementation Description:

Little Crane Creek Culvert - NFSR 1660-478 (MP 6.50)

Category 1 – Fish Passage Restoration Category 9 – Livestock Fencing Category 14 – Riparian Vegetation Planting	Lead Preparer: E. Porter
Applicant: Prairie City Aquatics Department	NEPA Reference: Decision notice for Aquatic Restoration Project
Location: Prairie City Ranger District	Lease/ /Case File/ Serial #: N/A Special Use Permit #: N/A
Begin Date: June 15, 2019*	Due Date: 4/15/2019

**Instream work may begin after July 1, 2019*

Purpose/Need:

Please refer to the Aquatic Restoration EA[1] for Purpose and Need of these actions

Location:

See Figures on the following pages for map within the Malheur National Forest.

Location	*(T/R, sec.,¼,¼) T.15S., R. 35E., Section 33, SW ¼, SE ¼*
USGS quad	*Crane Prairie*
Latitude/Longitude (decimal degrees)	*44.22021, -118.42458*
Subwatershed	*170501161103 – Crane Creek – Upper Malheur River*

T: Pathway(s):

T:\FS\NFS\Malheur\Project\AquaticRestoration2014\GIS\Implementation\PCRD\FY19\LittleCrane_Cr_AOP\PORTER_Lil Crane_CulvertReplacement

[1] The Aquatic Restoration EA is available online at http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/malheur/landmanagement/?cid=STELPRD3817723&width=full

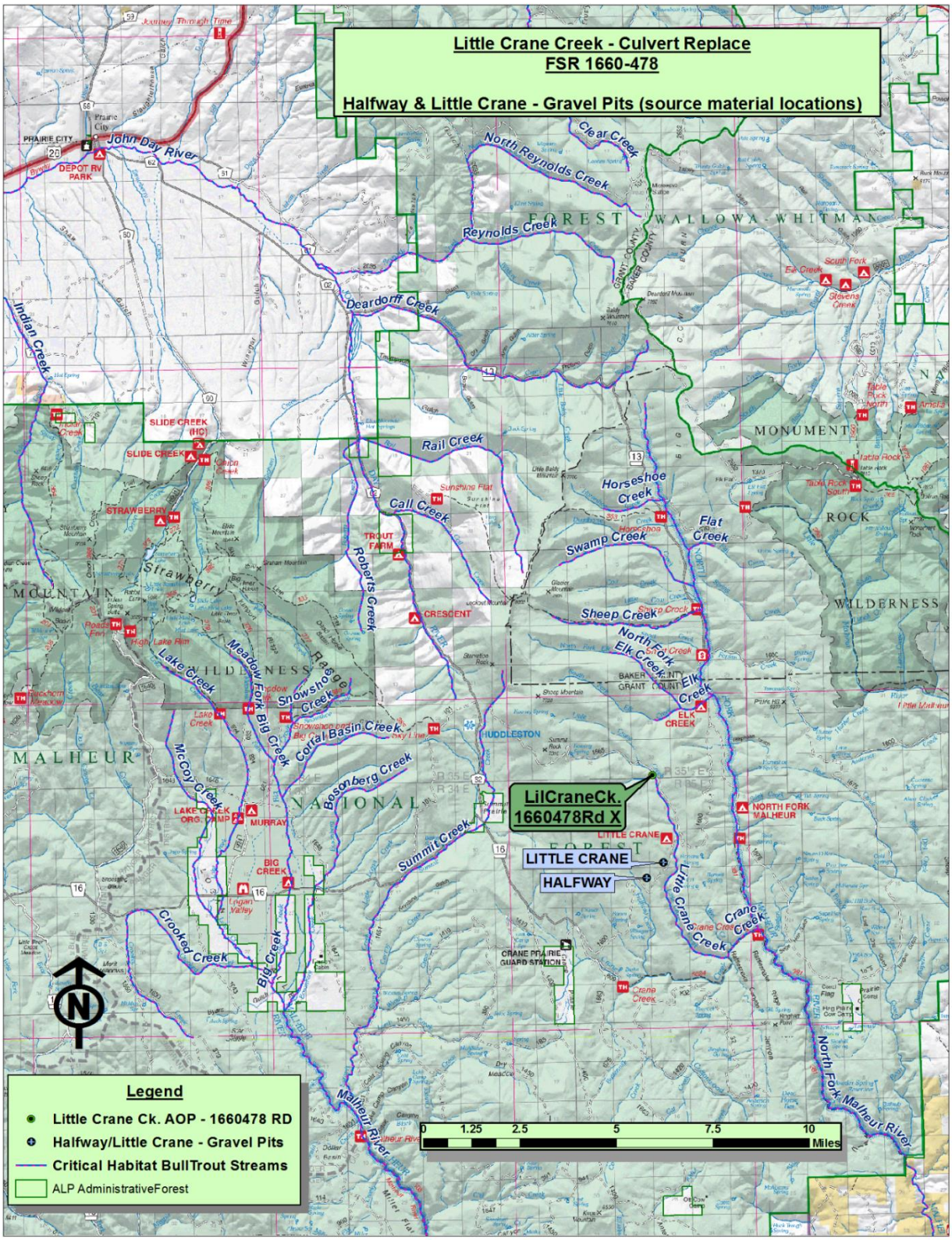

Figure 1: General location of proposed culvert replacement on Forest Road 1660-478 and Little Crane Creek.

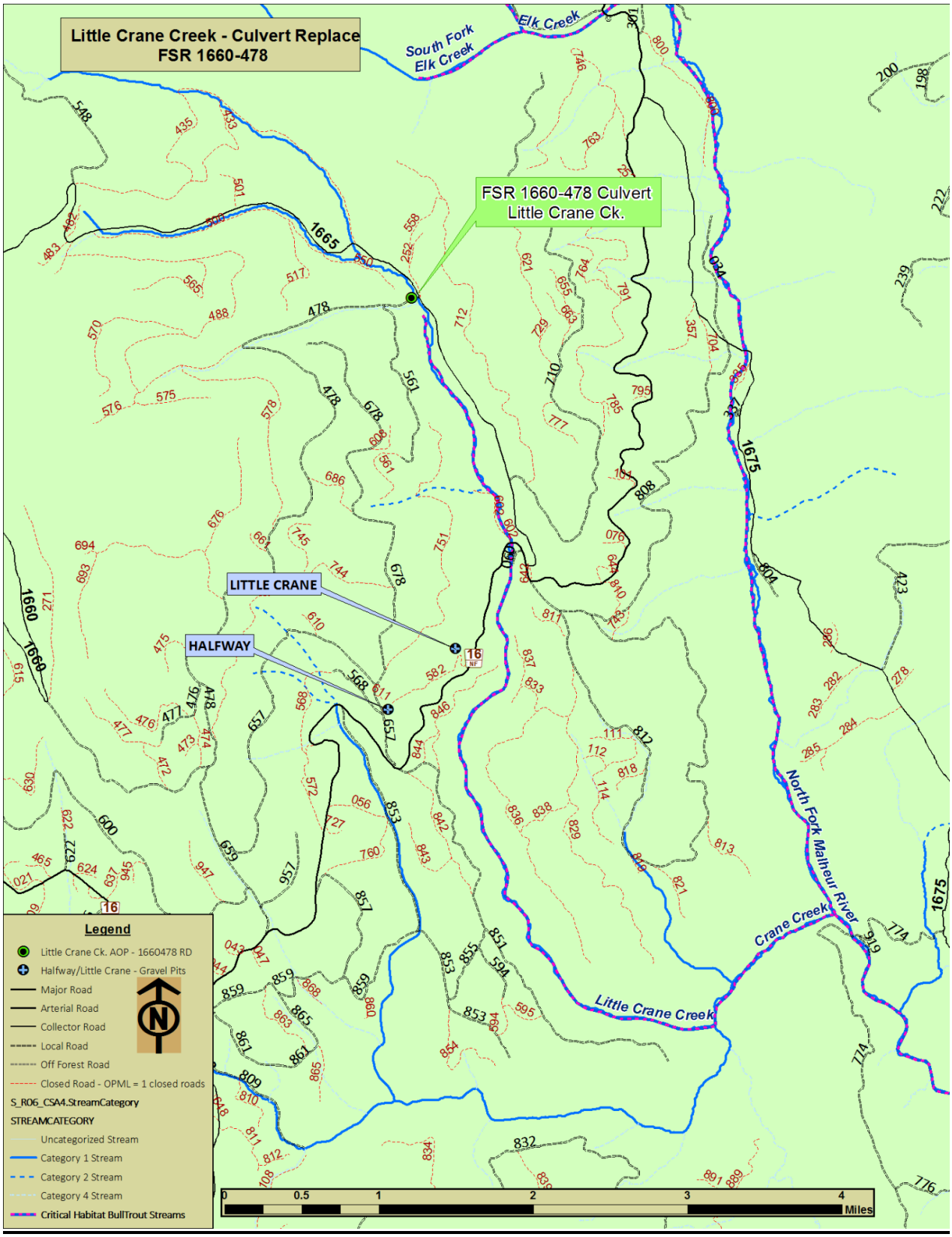

Figure 2: Specific location of proposed culvert replacement on Forest Road 1660-478 and Little Crane Creek.

Implementation Plan

Existing Conditions

Little Crane Creek is a perennial, category-1 tributary to Crane Creek, which flows into the North Fork of the Malheur River. The North Fork and its tributaries are unique in that they provide cold-water refugia for aquatic species, most notably Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus)*, which are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The population residing within North Fork Malheur River basin are the last remaining strong-hold of this species in the Malheur sub-basin, with Little Crane Creek as one of six creeks providing superior habitat and exhibiting some of the most concentrated spawning within the basin. Little Crane Creek has thus been designated as Critical Habitat by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for approximately 6.5 miles upstream of its confluence with Crane Creek.

The Forest Service Road (henceforth, FSR)1660-478 crosses Little Crane Creek approximately 700 feet north and upstream of designated critical habitat for Bull trout. The crossing consists of three, undersized culverts, each about 2.5 feet in diameter. The culverts are slightly sunken at the upstream end of the crossing as a result of sediment aggradation, a common symptom of undersized culverts. The culverts are seasonal migration barriers to fish and other aquatic organisms and are impeding natural sediment-transport processes and hydrologic connectivity.

A significant headwater spring is located just above the crossing. Forage at the spring is heavily utilized and disturbed by livestock concentration.

Desired Conditions

The desired condition for the NFSR1660-478 road crossing over Little Crane Creek is to provide passage for native aquatic organisms at all life stages. Sediment transport and streamflow would be unimpeded at low and high flow events.

The desired condition for the headwater spring is to support abundant, diverse riparian vegetation with strong roots to filter water and store sediment. As a result, water quality on Little Crane Creek downstream of the spring would be improved.

Improving sediment transport, retaining hydrologic connectivity, and protecting water quality are critical to maintaining resilient stream and riparian habitat that sustains water and forage for multiple uses while also contributing to the recovery of North Fork Malheur River Bull trout.

Implementation Plan:

The purpose of this project would be to 1) provide passage for all life stages of aquatic organisms including ESA-listed Bull trout 2) restore natural sediment transport processes at the culvert 3) improve hydrologic connectivity with the headwater-spring and 4) protect perennial spring sources that sustain water quality for aquatic organisms, wildlife, and livestock throughout the year.

The undersized culverts on FSR 1660-478 will be replaced with a single span, open bottom arch culvert designed to pass aquatic organisms and sediment at natural rates under a normal range of discharges up to a 100-year flood event. The headwater spring would be fenced to prevent livestock access. Exclosure fencing would be buck and pole, rail fence, or 4 strand barbed wire (or similar). Fencing would include the spring source and as much of the groundwater-dependent ecosystem as possible, without impeding

road maintenance activities or cattle movement within the pasture. If needed, a spring development and trough may would be installed to support livestock watering at this site.

Design for the single span, open-bottom arch culvert was provided by DJ&A, P.C. Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors in order to provide complete aquatic organism passage and improved hydrologic function. Design is available for specialist review upon request. Removing and replacing the existing structures will include the following activities:

- Dewatering:
  - A temporary diversion of stream flow will be constructed around site using a temporary, flexible culvert.
    (A Dewatering and Soil erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be submitted to the Contracting Officer (CO) at least seven (7) days prior to beginning work.)
  - Aquatics staff will capture and remove fish and other aquatic organisms from within the construction work area prior to and during work activities
- Excavation and stockpiling of existing fill:
  - Existing surface aggregate will be salvaged to supplement footing leveling and culvert backfill. (Material retained must meet backfill requirements and approval of the CO).
  - Clearing/grubbing of debris and vegetation within the site will be done as necessary and debris shall be scattered along fill slopes to provide slope stabilization
- Removal of existing culverts and excess material:
  - Disposal of materials designated for removal will become the property of the Contractor and are to be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner in accordance with Local, State, and Federal requirements.
  - Disposal of excess or unsuitable material will be done at a location designated by FSSS, Section 105 and at a site within 5 miles identified by the COR.
- Placement of new structures:
  - Placement will include excavation and placement of footings and possibly in-channel grade control structures (depending on the site-specific design). In-channel grade controls will require heavy equipment use in the stream and floodplain within 100 feet of the crossing.
- Placement of stream simulation material (boulders, cobbles and finer material) inside new culvert.
  - The Contractor will be required to verify streambed simulation and channel rock size at the source.
  - Additional material will be sourced from Halfway and Little Crane Pit.
- Backfilling and road surfacing over the new structure
  - Existing surface aggregate will be salvaged to supplement footing leveling and culvert backfill.
  - Additional material will be sourced from Halfway Pit and Little Crane Pit, including: unclassified borrow, Riprap, Channel Rock, Streambed Simulation Rock, Crushed Aggregate
- Seeding or planting of disturbed ground, if needed
- Road closures: Implementation will require short-term road closures; alternative access routes will be identified and provided in advance to local media and posted on maps locally. Signs to direct traffic and provide for public safety would be posted in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

- Conflicts with nearby timber-haul routes: Implementation during the summer of 2019 is unlikely to interfere with nearby logging operations and will not likely affect the haul route. Post-haul, road maintenance may occur during culvert replacement near this site, if so the contractor will be notified by the Harvest Inspector (email correspondence with R. Courtney 12/2018, EP)

Land Use Plan Conformance:

This project falls under Management Area (MA) 3A "Non-Anadromous Riparian Areas" of the Malheur National Forest Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP; USDA Forest Service, 1990). Little Crane Creek is within a category 1 Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA, fish-bearing stream) by PACFISH/INFISH. This project does **not** fall within designated critical habitat for Bull trout by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The adjacent management areas to the proposed treatment sites are classified as General Forest and Rangeland (MA1 & MA2).

Project activities are located in the Little Crane Creek (HUC 170501161103) Subwatershed within Upper Malheur River (HUC 17050116) watershed.

Land and Resources Management Plan Goals (USDA 1990):

MA3A- Non-Anadromous Riparian Areas

> *Manage riparian areas to protect and enhance their value for wildlife, anadromous fish habitat and water quality. Design and conduct management in all riparian areas to maintain or improve water quality and beneficial uses.*

MA1- General Forest

> *Emphasize timber production on a sustained yield basis while providing for other resources and values. Develop equal distribution of age classes to optimize sustained timber production. Manage at levels and intensities consist with the schedules described in this Plan to provide for other multiple uses and resources.*

MA2- Rangeland

> *Emphasize forage production on nonforested areas on a sustained yield basis while providing for other resources and values.*

Figure 3: Upstream end of triple-barrel culvert crossing of Little Crane Creek on FSR 1660-478. Note the culverts are sunken/filling with sediment, also note substantial gravel bar that has developed above the crossing,

Figure 4: About 40 feet upstream of crossing (facing downstream). Headwater spring is off the left bank about 20' from this site.

Figure 5 - Little Crane Creek – above headwater spring and 1660-478 Road crossing, about 100 feet. Note that the category-4 channel is dominated by gravels (ideal Bull trout spawning substrate).

Appendices to the Aquatic Restoration EA Implementation Description

Little Crane Creek Culvert NFSR 1660478 (MP 6.5)
Project Number: **0404-2019**

Category 1: Fish Passage Restoration
Category 9: Livestock Fencing, Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Livestock Watering Facilities
Category 14: Riparian vegetation planting

The following information will guide actions for this project that is taking place within the bounds of the Decision Notice for the 2014 Malheur National Forest Aquatic Restoration Environmental Analysis to maintain that all conservation measures, guidelines and project design criteria (PDCs) are met under this guiding document.

Program Administration

1. Integration of project design criteria and conservation measures and terms and conditions into project design and contract language
    a. This document is to outline the conservation measures and PDCs that will be used during project implementation to remain compliant with the aquatic restoration BA as well as ARBO II.
2. Project notification: The following information will be provided to the NMFS Level 1 Aquatics members 30 days prior to implementation as a Project Notification Form 7.
    a. Action identifier- 0404-2019
    b. Project name- Little Crane Creek AOP
    c. Location-

Project	*Little Crane Creek Culvert 1660-478 (MP 6.50)*
Stream Name	*Little Crane Creek*
6th field HUC	*170501161103 – Crane Creek – Upper Malheur*
Latitude (Decimal Degrees)	*44.22021*
Longitude (Decimal Degrees)	*-118.42458*

    d. Agency contact- *PCRD Aquatics*
    e. Timing- Instream work will begin July 1, 2019. *Non- in-stream work may begin as soon as ……window timing restrictions are applicable, as all of the work will occur June 15,*
    f. Activity category-
        Category 1: Fish Passage Restoration a) Stream Simulation Culvert and Bridge Projects
        Category 9: a) Livestock Fencing
        Category 14: Riparian Vegetation Planting
    g. Project description- Project description is available in the Implementation Description under the section "Implementation Plan" above.
    h. Extent- Work will occur during 2019, with in-stream work happening between July 1 and August 30. In-stream work may occur before or after the in-stream work window if dry channel conditions exist. Floodplain work may occur before or after instream window.
    i. Species affected-

i. Listed species: Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus)*
ii. *Critical Habitat: not within critical habitat*
iii. *MIS Species: Redband trout (Oncorynchus mykiss)*

j. Date of submittal- *To be completed in 2019, at least 30 day prior to implementation*
k. Site assessments- Assessment for contaminants is not required at these locations.
l. Review- USFWS fish passage review and Restoration Review Team review *are not required.*
m. Verification- _____
n. SOD project notification- _____

3. Minor Variance: No variances from the criteria specified in the aquatic restoration document are being considered.
4. USFWS Fish Passage Review and Approval: This will occur on a project by project basis as required.
5. Restoration Review Team: This work does not require review by the restoration review team.
6. Project Completion Report: To be completed after implementation. This project will be completed within three years of implementation initiation.
7. Annual Program Report: annual reporting will occur in the winter of the fiscal year after work was done before February 15th and occur annually until project completion.

Project Design Criteria

General Aquatic Conservation Measures[2]

1. Technical Skill and Planning Requirements:
    a. An appropriately qualified fisheries biologist or hydrologist will be involved in the design of this project.
    b. The scope of this project is limited in both space and context. Field evaluations and site-specific surveys will require little work. Appropriate time will be allotted for these actions, prior to implementation. Planning and design will involve appropriate expertise.
    c. The assigned fisheries biologist or hydrologist will make sure that any applicable conservation measures and project design criteria are met through the contracting process.
2. Climate Change: Although individual activities only affect small areas of the watershed, the impacts of this work as a whole will improve restistance and resilience of the system and biota to climate change through cold-water storage, enhanced biodiversity and improved habitat.
3. In-Water Work Period: In-stream activities will occur between July 15th and August 15th, and work occurring outside the high flow elevation can occur outside of this window.
4. Fish passage: Fish passage will be addressed on a case-by-case basis depending on the actions within a specific checklist.
5. Site Assessment For Contaminants: In developed or previously developed sites, such as areas with past dredge mines, or sites with known or suspected contamination, a site assessment for contaminants will be conducted on projects that involve excavation of >20 cubic yards of material. The action agencies will complete a site assessment to identify the type, quantity, and extent of any potential contamination. The level of detail and resources committed to such an

[2] These General Aquatic Conservation Measures are sourced from the Malheur National Forest Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment Appendix A.

assessment will be commensurate with the level and type of past or current development at the site. The assessment may include the following:

a. Review of readily available records, such as former site use, building plans, records of any prior contamination events.
b. Site visit to observe the areas used for various industrial processes and the condition of the property.
c. Interviews with knowledgeable people, such as site owners, operators, occupants, neighbors, local government officials, etc.
d. Report that

6. Pollution and Erosion Control Measures: Implement the following pollution and erosion control measures:
    a. Project Contact: Identify a project contact (name, phone number, an address) that will be responsible for implementing pollution and erosion control measures.
    b. List and describe any hazardous material that would be used at the project site, including procedures for inventory, storage, handling, and monitoring; notification procedures; specific clean-up and disposal instructions for different products available on the site; proposed methods for disposal of spilled material; and employee training for spill containment.
    c. Temporarily store any waste liquids generated at the staging areas under cover on an impervious surface, such as tarpaulins, until such time they can be properly transported to and treated at an approved facility for treatment of hazardous materials.
    d. Procedures based on best management practices to confine, remove, and dispose of construction waste, including every type of debris, discharge water, concrete, cement, grout, washout facility, welding slag, petroleum product, or other hazardous materials generated, used, or stored on-site.
    e. Procedures to contain and control a spill of any hazardous material generated, used or stored on-site, including notification of proper authorities. Ensure that materials for emergency erosion and hazardous materials control are onsite (e.g., silt fence, straw bales, oil-absorbing floating boom whenever surface water is present).
    f. Best management practices to confine vegetation and soil disturbance to the minimum area, and minimum length of time, as necessary to complete the action, and otherwise prevent or minimize erosion associated with the action area.
    g. No uncured concrete or form materials will be allowed to enter the active stream channel.
    h. Steps to cease work under high flows, except for efforts to avoid or minimize resource damage.
7. Site Preparation
    a. Flagging sensitive areas –Prior to construction, clearly mark critical riparian vegetation areas, wetlands, and other sensitive sites to minimize ground disturbance.
    b. Staging area –Establish staging areas for storage of vehicles, equipment, and fuels to minimize erosion into or contamination of streams and floodplains.
        i. No Topographical Restrictions –place staging area 150 feet or more from any natural water body or wetland in areas where topography does not restrict such a distance.
        ii. Topographical Restrictions –place staging area away from any natural water body or wetland to the greatest extent possible in areas with high topographical restriction, such as constricted valley types.

c. Temporary erosion controls –Place sediment barriers prior to construction around sites where significant levels of erosion may enter the stream directly or through road ditches. Temporary erosion controls will be in place before any significant alteration of the action site and will be removed once the site has been stabilized following construction activities.
d. Stockpile materials –Minimize clearing and grubbing activities when preparing staging, project, and or stockpile areas. Any large wood, topsoil, and native channel material displaced by construction will be stockpiled for use during site restoration. Materials used for implementation of aquatic restoration categories (e.g., large wood, boulders, fencing material) may be staged within the 100-year floodplain.
e. Hazard trees –Where appropriate, include hazard tree removal (amount and type) in project design. Fell hazard trees when they pose a safety risk. If possible, fell hazard trees within riparian areas towards a stream. Keep felled trees on site when needed to meet coarse large wood objectives.

8. Heavy Equipment Use
    a. Choice of equipment – Heavy equipment will be commensurate with the project and operated in a manner that minimizes adverse effects to the environment (e.g., minimally-sized, low pressure tires, minimal hard turn paths for tracked vehicles, temporary mats or plates within wet areas or sensitive soils).
    b. Fueling and cleaning and inspection for petroleum products and invasive weeds
        i. All equipment used for instream work will be cleaned for petroleum accumulations, dirt, plant material (to prevent the spread of noxious weeds), and leaks repaired prior to entering the project area. Such equipment includes large machinery, stationary power equipment (e.g., generators, canes), and gas-powered equipment with tanks larger than five gallons.
        ii. Store and fuel equipment in staging areas after daily use.
        iii. Inspect daily for fluid leaks before leaving the vehicle staging area for operation.
        iv. Thoroughly clean equipment before operation below ordinary high water or within 50 feet of any natural water body or areas that drain directly to streams or wetlands and as often as necessary during operation to remain grease free.
    c. Temporary access roads – Existing roadways will be used whenever possible. Minimize the number of temporary access roads and travel paths to lessen soil disturbance and compaction and impacts to vegetation. Temporary access roads will not be built on slopes where grade, soil, or other features suggest a likelihood of excessive erosion or failure. When necessary, temporary access roads will be obliterated or revegetated. Temporary roads in wet or flooded areas will be restored by the end of the applicable in-water work period. Construction of new permanent roads is not permitted.
    d. Stream crossings – Minimize number and length of stream crossings. Such crossings will be at right angles and avoid potential spawning areas to the greatest extent possible. Stream crossings shall not increase the risk of channel re-routing at low and high water conditions. After project completion, temporary stream
    e. Work from top of bank – To the extent feasible, heavy equipment will work from the top of the bank, unless work instream would result in less damage to the aquatic ecosystem.
    f. Timely completion – Minimize time in which heavy equipment is in stream channels, riparian areas, and wetlands. Complete earthwork (including drilling, excavation, dredging, filling and compacting) as quickly as possible. During excavation, stockpile

native streambed materials above the bankfull elevation, where it cannot reenter the stream, for later use.

9. Site Restoration
    a. Initiate rehabilitation – Upon project completion, rehabilitate all disturbed areas in a manner that results in similar or better than pre-work conditions through removal of project related waste, spreading of stockpiled materials (soil, large wood, trees, etc.) seeding, or planting with local native seed mixes or plants.
    b. Short-term stabilization – Measures may include the use of non-native sterile seed mix (when native seeds are not available), weed-free certified straw, jute matting, and other similar techniques. Short-term stabilization measures will be maintained until permanent erosion control measures are effective. Stabilization measures will be instigated within three days of construction completion.
    c. Revegetation – Replant each area requiring revegetation prior to or at the beginning of the first growing season following construction. Achieve reestablishment of vegetation in disturbed areas to at least 70% of pre-project levels within three years. Use an appropriate mix of species that will achieve establishment and erosion control objectives, preferably forb, grass, shrub, or tree species native to the project area or region and appropriate to the site. Barriers will be installed as necessary to prevent access to revegetated sites by livestock or unauthorized persons.
    d. Planting manuals – All riparian plantings shall follow Forest Service direction described in the Regional letter to Units, Use of Native and Nonnative Plants on National Forests and Grasslands May 2006 (Final Draft), and or BLM Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2001-014, Policy on the Use of Native Species Plant Material.
    e. Decompact soils – Decompact soil by scarifying the soil surface of roads and paths, stream crossings, staging, and stockpile areas so that seeds and plantings can root.
10. Monitoring

    Monitoring will be conducted by Action Agency staff, as appropriate for that project, during and after a project to track effects and compliance with this opinion.
    a. Implementation
        i. Visually monitor during project implementation to ensure effects are not greater (amount, extent) than anticipated and to contact Level 1 representatives if problems arise.
        ii. Fix any problems that arise during project implementation.
        iii. Regular biologist/hydrologist coordination if biologist/hydrologist is not always on site to ensure contractor is following all stipulations.
    b. 401 Certification – To minimize short-term degradation to water quality during project implementation, follow current 401 Certification provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act for maintenance or water quality standards described by the following: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon BLM, Forest Service, and BIA); Washington Department of Ecology (Washington BLM); and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Forest Service regarding Hydraulic Projects Conducted by Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (WDFW and USDA-Forest Service 2012); California, Idaho, or Nevada 401 Certification protocols (BLM and Forest Service).
    c. Post project – A post-project review shall be conducted after winter and spring high flows.

i. For each project, conduct a walk through/visual observation to determine if there are post-project affects that were not considered during consultation. For fish passage and revegetation projects, monitor in the following manner:
ii. Fish Passage Projects – Note any problems with channel scour or bedload deposition, substrate, discontinuous flow, vegetation establishment, or invasive plant infestation.
iii. Revegetation – For all plant treatment projects, including site restoration, monitor for and remove invasive plants until native plants become established.
iv. In cases where remedial action is required, such actions are permitted without additional consultation if they use relevant PDC and aquatic conservation measures and the effects of the action categories are not exceeded.

11. Work Area Isolation, Surface Water Withdrawals, and Fish Capture and Release –Isolate the construction area and remove fish from a project site for projects that include concentrated and major excavation at a single location within the stream channel. This condition will typically apply to the following aquatic restoration categories: Fish Passage Restoration; Dam, Tidegate, and Legacy Structure Removal; Channel Reconstruction/Relocation.
    a. Isolate capture area – Install block nets at up and downstream locations outside of the construction zone to exclude fish from entering the project area. Leave nets secured to the stream channel bed and banks until construction activities within the stream channel are complete. If block nets or traps remain in place more than one day, monitor the nets and or traps at least on a daily basis to ensure they are secured to the banks and free of organic accumulation and to minimize fish predation in the trap.
    b. Capture and release – Fish trapped within the isolated work area will be captured and released as prudent to minimize the risk of injury, then released at a safe release site, preferably upstream of the isolated reach in a pool or other area that provides cover and flow refuge. Collect fish in the best manner to minimize potential stranding and stress by seine or dip nets as the area is slowly dewatered, baited minnow traps placed overnight, or electrofishing (if other options are ineffective). Fish must be handled with extreme care and kept in water the maximum extent possible during transfer procedures. A healthy environment for the stressed fish shall be provided—large buckets (five-gallon minimum to prevent overcrowding) and minimal handling of fish. Place large fish in buckets separate from smaller prey-sized fish. Monitor water temperature in buckets and well-being of captured fish. If buckets are not being immediately transported, use aerators to maintain water quality. As rapidly as possible, but after fish have recovered, release fish. In cases where the stream is intermittent upstream, release fish in downstream areas and away from the influence of the construction. Capture and release will be supervised by a fishery biologist experienced with work area isolation and safe handling of all fish.
    c. Electrofishing – Use electrofishing only where other means of fish capture may not be feasible or effective. If electrofishing will be used to capture fish for salvage, NMFS's electrofishing guidelines will be followed (NMFS 2000).
        i. Reasonable effort should be made to avoid handling fish in warm water temperatures, such as conducting fish evacuation first thing in the morning, when the water temperature would likely be coolest. No electrofishing should occur when water temperatures are above 18ºC or are expected to rise above this temperature prior to concluding the fish capture.

ii. If fish are observed spawning during the in-water work period, electrofishing shall not be conducted in the vicinity of spawning fish or active redds.
iii. Only Direct Current (DC) or Pulsed Direct Current shall be used.
iv. Conductivity <100, use voltage ranges from 900 to 1100. Conductivity from 100 to 300, use voltage ranges from 500 to 800. Conductivity greater than 300, use voltage to 400.
v. Begin electrofishing with minimum pulse width and recommended voltage and then gradually increase to the point where fish are immobilized and captured. Turn off current once fish are immobilized. vi. Do not allow fish to come into contact with anode. Do not electrofish an area for an extended period of time. Remove fish immediately from water and handle as described above (PDC 20b). Dark bands on the fish indicate injury, suggesting a reduction in voltage and pulse width and longer recovery time.
vi. If mortality is occurring during salvage, immediately discontinue salvage operations (unless this would result in additional fish mortality), reevaluate the current procedures, and adjust or postpone procedures to reduce mortality.

d. Dewater construction site –When dewatering is necessary to protect species or critical habitat, divert flow around the construction site with a coffer dam (built with non-erosive materials), taking care to not dewater downstream channels during dewatering. Pass flow and fish downstream with a by-pass culvert or a water-proof lined diversion ditch. Diversion sandbags can be filled with material mined from the floodplain as long as such material is replaced at end of project. Small amounts of instream material can be moved to help seal and secure diversion structures. If ESA listed-fish may be present and pumps are required to dewater, the intake must have a fish screen(s) and be operated in accordance with NMFS fish screen criteria described below (in part e.iv) of this section. Dissipate flow energy at the bypass outflow to prevent damage to riparian vegetation or stream channel. If diversion allows for downstream fish passage, place diversion outlet in a location to promote safe reentry of fish into the stream channel, preferably into pool habitat with cover. Pump seepage water from the de-watered work area to a temporary storage and treatment site or into upland areas and allow water to filter through vegetation prior to reentering the stream channel.
e. Surface water withdrawals
    i. Surface water may be diverted to meet construction needs, but only if developed sources are unavailable or inadequate. Where ESA-listed fish may be present, diversions may not exceed 10% of the available flow and fish screen(s) will be installed, operated, and maintained according to NMFS's fish screen criteria (NMFS 2011e).
    ii. For the dewatering of a work site to remove or install culverts, bridge abutments etc., if ESA-listed fish may be present, a fish screen that meets criteria specified by NMFS (2011e) must be used on the intake to avoid juvenile fish entrainment. If ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, eulachon, or green sturgeon may be present, the Action Agencies will ensure that the fish screen design is reviewed and approved by NMFS for consistency with NMFS (2011e) criteria if the diversion (gravity or pump) is at a rate greater than 3 cfs. NMFS approved fish screens have the following specifications: a) An automated cleaning device with a minimum effective surface area of 2.5 square feet per cfs, and a nominal maximum

approach velocity of 0.4 feet per second (fps), or no automated cleaning device, a minimum effective surface area of 1 square foot per cfs, and a nominal maximum approach rate of 0.2 fps; and b) a round or square screen mesh that is no larger than 2.38 mm (0.094 inches) in the narrow dimension, or any other shape that is no larger than 1.75 mm (0.069 inches) in the narrow dimension.

f. Stream re-watering – Upon project completion, slowly re-water the construction site to prevent loss of surface water downstream as the construction site streambed absorbs water and to prevent a sudden release of suspended sediment. Monitor downstream during re-watering to prevent stranding of aquatic organisms below the construction site.

Project Design Criteria by Aquatic Restoration Activity Categories

1. **Fish Passage Restoration** includes the following: total removal of culverts or bridges, or replacing culverts or bridges with properly sized culverts and bridges, replacing a damaged culvert or bridge, and resetting an existing culvert that was improperly installed or damaged; stabilizing and providing passage over headcuts; removing, constructing (including relocations), repairing, or maintaining fish ladders; and constructing or replacing fish screens for irrigation diversions. Such projects will take place where fish passage has been partially or completely eliminated through road construction, stream degradation, creation of small dams and weirs, and irrigation diversions. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.

a. **Stream Simulation Culvert and Bridge Projects –** All road-stream crossing structures shall simulate stream channel conditions per *Stream Simulation: An Ecological Approach to Providing Passage for Aquatic Organisms at Road- Stream Crossings* (USDA-Forest Service 2008), located at: http://stream.fs.fed.us/fishxing/aop_pdfs.html

i. **Culvert criteria** – Within the considerations of stream simulation, the structure shall, at a minimum, accommodate a bankfull wide channel plus constructed banks to provide for passage of all life stages of native fish species (for more information, reference Chapter 6, page 35 of the USFS Stream Simulation Guide). The following crossing-width guidance applies to specific ranges of entrenchment ratios as defined by Rosgen (1996):

1. Non-entrenched Streams: If a stream is not fully entrenched (entrenchment ratio of greater than 1.4), the minimum culvert width shall be at least 1.3 times the bankfull channel width. This is consistent with *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design* (section 7.4.2 "Stream Simulation Design") (NMFS 2011e). However, if the appropriate structure width is determined to be less than 1.3 times the bankfull channel width, processes for variances are listed in "iv" and "v" below.
2. Entrenched Streams: If a stream is entrenched (entrenchment ratio of less than 1.4), the culvert width must be greater than bankfull channel width, allow sufficient vertical clearance to allow ease of construction and maintenance activities, and provide adequate room for the construction of natural channel banks. Consideration should be given to accommodate the floodprone width. Floodprone width is the width measured at twice the maximum bankfull depth (Rosgen 1996).

ii. **Bridge Design**

1. Bridges with vertical abutments, including concrete box culverts, which are constructed as bridges, shall have channel widths that are designed using the culvert criteria (PDC 21a-i

above). This opinion does not cover bridges that require pile driving within a wetted stream channels.
2. Primary structural elements must be concrete, metal, fiberglass, or untreated timber. Concrete must be sufficiently cured or dried before coming into contact with stream flow.
3. Riprap must not be placed within the bankfull width of the stream. Riprap may only be placed below bankfull height when necessary for protection of abutments and pilings. However, the amount and placement of riprap should not constrict the bankfull flow.

iii. **Crossing Design**

1. Crossings shall be designed using an interdisciplinary design team consisting of an experienced Engineer, Fisheries Biologist, and Hydrologist/Geomorphologist. 2. Forest Service crossing structures wider than 20 feet or with costs that exceed $100,000 shall be reviewed by the USDA-Forest Service, Region 6, Aquatic Organism Passage Design Assistance Team.
3. At least one member of the design team shall be trained in a weeklong Aquatic Organism Passage course based *Stream Simulation: An Ecological Approach to Providing Passage for Aquatic Organisms at Road-Stream Crossings* (USDA-Forest Service 2008).
4. Bankfull width shall be based on the upper end of the distribution of bankfull width measurements as measured in the reference reach to account for channel variability and dynamics.

iv. **NMFS fish passage review and approve** – If the structure width is determined to be less than the established width criteria as defined above, a variance must be requested from NMFS for consistency with criteria in NMFS (2011e).

v. **Opportunity for individual consultation** – The Action Agencies have a legal duty under the ESA to consult with NMFS and USFWS on a project specific basis if they prefer to operate outside the conditions in this opinion. The standards provided in this document are conservative for the purpose of this programmatic and may or may not be applicable to projects that undergo individual Level 1 Consultation. The standards in ARBO II are not new defaults to be used universally outside the programmatic arena.

vi. **Headcut and grade stabilization –** Headcuts often occur in meadow areas, typically on Rosgen "C" and "E" channel types. Headcuts develop and migrate during bankfull and larger floods, when the sinuous path of Rosgen E type streams may become unstable in erosive, alluvial sediments, causing avulsions, meander cut-offs, bank failure, and development of an entrenched Rosgen G gully channel (Rosgen 1994).

1. **Stabilize Headcuts**

a. In streams with current or historic fish presence, provide fish passage over stabilized headcut through constructed riffles for pool/riffle streams or a series of log or rock structures for step/pool channels as described in part ii below.
b. Armor headcut with sufficiently sized and amounts of material to prevent continued up-stream migration of the headcut. Materials can include both rock and organic materials which are native to the area. Material shall not contain gabion baskets, sheet pile, concrete, articulated concrete block, and cable anchors.
c. Focus stabilization efforts in the plunge pool, the headcut, as well as a short distance of stream above the headcut.
d. Minimize lateral migration of channel around headcut ("flanking") by placing rocks and organic material at a lower elevation in the center of the channel cross section to direct flows to the middle of channel.

e. Short-term headcut stabilization (including emergency stabilization projects) may occur without associated fish passage measures. However, fish passage must be incorporated into the final headcut stabilization action and be completed during the first subsequent in-water work period.

f. In streams without current or historic fish presence, it is recommended to construct a series of downstream log or rock structures as described in part ii below to expedite channel aggradation.

vii. **Grade stabilization to promote fish passage associated with headcut stabilization**

1. **NMFS fish passage review and approve –** If a grade stabilization structure spans the channel and creates one or more discrete longitudinal drops > 6 inches, the Action Agencies will ensure that the action is individually reviewed and approved by the NMFS for consistency with criteria in *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design* (NMFS 2011e).

2. Provide fish passage over stabilized headcut through constructed riffles for pool/riffle streams or a series of log or rock structures for step/pool channels. If large wood and boulder placement will be used for headcut stabilization, refer to Large Wood, Boulder, and Gravel Placement (PDC 22) below.

3. Construct structures in a 'V' or 'U' shape, oriented with the apex upstream, and lower in the center to direct flows to the middle of channel.

4. Key structures into the stream bed to minimize structure undermining due to scour, preferably at least 2.5x their exposure height. The structures should also be keyed into both banks—if feasible greater than 8 feet.

5. If several structures will be used in series, space them at the appropriate distances to promote fish passage of all life stages of native fish. Incorporate NMFS fish passage criteria (jump height, pool depth, *etc.*) in the design of step structures. Recommended spacing should be no closer than the net drop divided by the channel slope (for example, a one-foot high step structure in a stream with a two-percent gradient will have a minimum spacing of 50-feet [1/0.02]).

6. Include gradated (cobble to fine) material in the rock structure material mix to help seal the structure/channel bed, thereby preventing subsurface flow and ensuring fish passage immediately following construction if natural flows are sufficient.

7. If a project involves the removal of multiple barriers on one stream or in one watershed over the course of a work season, remove the most upstream barrier first if possible.

b. **Fish Ladders**

i. **NMFS fish passage review and approve –** The Action Agencies will ensure that the action is individually reviewed and approved by NMFS for consistency with criteria in *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design* (NMFS 2011e).

ii. Design preference is based on project type, level of maintenance, and required monitoring essential for reliable fish passage. Typical fishway designs include:

1. roughened channels/boulder step structures
2. channel spanning concrete sills
3. pool and chute, and
4. pool and weir fishways.

Roughened channel and boulder step structure fishways consist of a graded mix of rock and sediment in an open channel that creates enough roughness and diversity to facilitate fish passage. NMFS's review will include any appurtenant facilities (*i.e.*, fish counting

equipment, pit tag detectors, lighting, trash racks, attraction water) that may be included with the fish ladder design. See: the most recent version of *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design* (NMFS 2011e) for guidelines and design criteria. Through the NMFS Level 1 team member, collaborate with NMFS engineering staff prior to the conceptual design process of fishway projects to solicit NMFS's preferred design type.

iii. If a project involves the removal of multiple barriers on one stream or in one watershed over the course of a work season, remove the most upstream barrier first if possible.

c. **Irrigation Diversion Replacement/Relocation & Screen Installation/Replacement**

i. **NMFS fish passage review and approve** – The Action Agencies will ensure that the action is individually reviewed and approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for consistency with criteria in *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design* (NMFS 2011e).

ii. Diversion structures—associated with points of diversion and future fish screens—must pass all life stages of threatened and endangered aquatic species that historically used the affected aquatic habitat.

iii. Water diversion intake and return points must be designed (to the greatest degree possible) to prevent all native fish life stages from swimming or being entrained into the diversion.

iv. NMFS fish screen criteria (NMFS 2011e) applies to federally listed salmonid species under their jurisdiction. This includes screens in temporary and permanent pump intakes.

v. All fish screens will be sized to match the irrigator's state water right or estimated historic water use, whichever is less.

vi. Size of bypass structure should be big enough to pass steelhead kelt into the stream.

vii. Abandoned ditches and other similar structures will be plugged or backfilled, as appropriate, to prevent fish from swimming or being entrained into them.

viii. When making improvements to pressurized diversions, install a totalizing flow meter capable of measuring rate and duty of water use. For non-pressurized systems, install a staff gage or other measuring device capable of measuring instantaneous rate of water flow.

ix. Conversion of instream diversions to groundwater wells will only be used in circumstances where there is an agreement to ensure that any surface water made available for instream flows is protected from surface withdrawal by another water-user.

x. For the removal of diversion structures constructed of local rock and dirt, the project sponsor will dispose of the removed material in the following manner:

1. Material more than 60% silt or clay will be disposed in uplands, outside of the active floodplain.
2. Material with more than 40% gravel will be deposited within the active floodplain, but not in wetlands.
3. Material with more than 50% gravel and less than 30% fines (silt or clay) may be deposited below the ordinary high water mark (HWM).

9. Livestock Fencing, Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Livestock Watering Facilities projects will be implemented by constructing fences to exclude riparian grazing, providing controlled access for walkways that livestock use to transit across streams and through riparian areas, and reducing livestock use in riparian areas and stream channels by providing upslope water facilities. Such projects promote a balanced approach to livestock use in riparian areas, reducing livestock impacts to riparian soils and vegetation, streambanks, channel substrates, and water quality. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.

a. **Livestock Fencing**

i. Fence placement must allow for lateral movement of a stream and to allow establishment of riparian plant species. To the extent possible, fences will be placed outside the channel migration zone.
ii. Minimize vegetation removal, especially potential large wood recruitment sources, when constructing fence lines.
iii. Where appropriate, construct fences at water gaps in a manner that allows passage of large wood and other debris.

b. **Livestock Stream Crossings**

i. The number of crossings will be minimized.
ii. Locate crossings or water gaps where streambanks are naturally low. Livestock crossings or water gaps must not be located in areas where compaction or other damage can occur to sensitive soils and vegetation (e.g., wetlands) due to congregating livestock.
iii. To the extent possible, crossings will not be placed in areas where ESA listed species spawn or are suspected of spawning (e.g., pool tailouts where spawning may occur), or within 300-feet upstream of such areas.
iv. Existing access roads and stream crossings will be used whenever possible, unless new construction would result in less habitat disturbance and the old trail or crossing is retired.
v. Access roads or trails will be provided with a vegetative buffer that is adequate to avoid or minimize runoff of sediment and other pollutants to surface waters.
vi. Essential crossings will be designed and constructed or improved to handle reasonably foreseeable flood risks, including associated bedload and debris, and to prevent the diversion of streamflow out of the channel and down the trail if the crossing fails.
vii. If necessary, the streambank and approach lanes can be stabilized with native vegetation or angular rock to reduce chronic sedimentation. The stream crossing or water gap should be armored with sufficient sized rock (e.g., cobble-size rock) and use angular rock if natural substrate is not of adequate size.
viii. Livestock crossings will not create barriers to the passage of adult and juvenile fish. Whenever a culvert or bridge—including bridges constructed from flatbed railroad cars, boxcars, or truck flatbeds—is used to create the crossing, the structure width will tier to project design criteria listed for Stream Simulation Culvert and Bridge Projects under Fish Passage Restoration (PDC 21).
ix. Stream crossings and water gaps will be designed and constructed to a width of 10 to 15 feet in the upstream-downstream direction to minimize the time livestock will spend in the crossing or riparian area.
x. When using pressure treated lumber for fence posts, complete all cutting/drilling offsite (to the extent possible) so that treated wood chips and debris do not enter water or flood prone areas.
xi. Riparian fencing is not to be used to create livestock handling facilities or

riparian pastures.

c. **Off-channel Livestock Watering Facilities**

i. The development of a spring is not allowed if the spring is occupied by ESA-listed species.

ii. Water withdrawals must not dewater habitats or cause low stream flow conditions that could affect ESA-listed fish. Withdrawals may not exceed 10% of the available flow.

iii. Troughs or tanks fed from a stream or river must have an existing valid water right. Surface water intakes must be screened to meet the most recent version of NMFS fish screen criteria (NMFS 2011e)(NMFS 2011e)(NMFS 2011e)(NMFS 2011e)(NMFS 2011e)(NMFS 2011e)(NMFS 2011e), be self-cleaning, or regularly maintained by removing debris buildup. A responsible party will be designated to conduct regular inspection and as-needed maintenance to ensure pumps and screens are properly functioning.

iv. Place troughs far enough from a stream or surround with a protective surface to prevent mud and sediment delivery to the stream. Avoid steep slopes and areas where compaction or damage could occur to sensitive soils, slopes, or vegetation due to congregating livestock.

v. Ensure that each livestock water development has a float valve or similar device, a return flow system, a fenced overflow area, or similar means to minimize water withdrawal and potential runoff and erosion.

vi. Minimize removal of vegetation around springs, wet areas.

vii. When necessary, construct a fence around the spring development to prevent livestock damage.

14. Riparian Vegetation Planting includes the planting of native riparian species that would occur under natural disturbance regimes. Activities may include the following: planting conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs; placement of sedge and or rush mats; gathering and planting willow cuttings. The resulting benefits to the aquatic system can include desired levels of stream shade, bank stability, stream nutrients, large wood inputs, increased grasses, forbs, and shrubs, and reduced soil erosion. Equipment may include excavators, backhoes, dump trucks, power augers, chainsaws, and manual tools.

a. Experienced silviculturists, botanists, ecologists, or associated technicians shall be involved in designing vegetation treatments.

b. Species to be planted will be of the same species that naturally occur in the project area. Acquire native seed or plant sources as close to the watershed as possible.

c. Tree and shrub species, willow cuttings, as well as sedge and rush mats to be used as transplant material shall come from outside the bankfull width, typically in terraces (abandoned flood plains), or where such plants are abundant.

d. Sedge and rush mats should be sized to prevent their movement during high flow events.

e. Concentrate plantings above the bankfull elevation.

f. Removal of native and non-native vegetation that will compete with plantings is permitted.

g. Exclosure fencing to prevent utilization of plantings by deer, elk, and livestock is permitted.

Project Design Criteria by Resource

Fisheries and Hydrology

Fisheries and Hydrology resources will follow all mitigation measures and project design criteria for aquatic restoration activities as shown in the 'Aquatic Restoration Project Categories, Program Administration, General Aquatic Conservation Measures, and Project Design Criteria for Aquatic Restoration Activity Categories on the Malheur National Forest.'
Additional Aquatic project design criteria were developed for the following elements: Tree Tipping and Felling, Juniper Treatments, Tree Hauling, and Prescribed Burning.

General For Inside Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas

All snags will be maintained within the RHCA unless deemed a hazard to the restoration activity.

Tree Tipping and Tree Felling for Large Wood Projects

Source trees being extracted (either by tipping and or falling) as part of this project for instream restoration will not be harvested from within the primary shade zone.

Table 1 Primary shade zone width, based on adjacent hill slope.

	Hill Slope less than 30%	Hill Slope 30% to 60%	Hill Slope greater than 30%
Primary Shade Zone Width (slope distance	50 ft.	55 ft.	60 ft.

The Temperature Implementation Strategies allow the distances in the above table to be less (but not less than 25 ft.) if any of the following conditions applies:
The trees are located on a south facing slope (175-185 degree azimuth) and therefore do not provide stream shade;
An appropriate level of analysis is completed and documented, such as shade modeling, using site-specific characteristics to determine the primary shade tree width; and or
Field monitoring or measurements are completed to determine the width where optimum Angular Canopy Density (65% or greater) is achieved (see TMDL Implementation Strategies).
If trees are being felled for safety reasons they can be felled towards the stream.
Source trees should come from but are not limited to: over or fully stocked upland and riparian stands, hazard trees, trees generated from administrative sites (maintenance, expansion, or new construction), and hardwood restoration.

There is no DBH (diameter at breast height) restriction for large wood, but consider the following before removing and placing trees:
Diameter
The key to establishing a logjam is utilizing larger diameter wood that resists decay. These pieces of wood are often called "key pieces," and serve as the anchors for the logjam structure. Wood can improve fish habitat only if the wood is large enough to stay, influence flow patterns, and sediment sorting. Larger diameter wood retains its size longer as abrasion and decay occurs over the years. Larger diameter wood is more effective in creating pools and complex channels that improve fish populations. The minimum diameter required for a key piece of wood depends on the bankfull width of the stream is found in the following table.

Table 2 Bankfull widths and minimum diameter of logs to be considered key pieces.

Bankfull Width* - Feet	Minimum Diameter* - Inches
0 to 10	10
10 to 20	16
20 to 30	18
Over 30	22

*This table was taken from '1995 A Guide to Placement of Large Wood in Streams.

Length

The length of the wood is also important to stability. To be considered a key piece a log with a rootwad still attached should be at least one and one-half times (1.5X) the bankfull or a log without a rootwad should be twice (2X) the length of the stream's bankfull width. As the best fish habitat is formed around jams composed of 3 to7 logs, at least 2 key pieces should be used at each structure.

Mimic natural accumulations of large woody debris based on stream type, valley setting, and community type and ensure future large woody debris recruitment

Tailholds as part of tree tipping operations are permitted across perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams but the use of protective straps will be required to prevent tree damage.

Juniper Treatments

The majority of the juniper treatment areas would be within the riparian habitat conservation areas and adjoining uplands. For each area evaluated for juniper treatments, interdisciplinary teams would discuss the following questions in order to identify the attributes of an area and select the appropriate treatments:

What kind of site (potential natural vegetation, soils)?

Successional state of site?

Components that need to be restored?

How units may fit into the overall landscape mosaic?

Long-term goals and objectives?

Utilize the "Western Juniper Field Guide: Asking the Right Questions to Select the Appropriate Management Actions. (Bates et al. 2007, Circular 1321)
http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1321/pdf/circ1321.pdf

Tree and Boulder Hauling

Apply mitigation and best management practices for dust abatement (water, lignosulfonate, Calcium and Magnesium Chlorides) dry conditions, and erosion control as directed by physical scientist or road engineer (See Road Maintenance project design criteria #6 for application).

Haul on gravel and native-surface roads will be limited to dry conditions.

Haul Restrictions to Prevent Fine Sediment Delivery to Streams

Haul or maintenance is permitted on roads under the following conditions:

- During haul, weather conditions are monitored daily for the chance of precipitation by the Hydrologist or Fish Biologist.
- No rutting of the road surface is occurring, indicating the subsurface is wet.
- Frozen ground conditions.

Haul will cease at any time when the travelway of the road is wet and turbid water or fines are observed moving off the road surface to ditchlines that deliver to stream channels regardless of time of year.

Roads Exempt from Haul Restrictions include (Do to no mechanism for sediment delivery):

Paved roads
Surfaced Ridge top roads
Surfaced outsloped roads with no ditch or stream crossings

Prescribed Burning and Related Activities
Mechanical piling and burning of large piles will be restricted to existing roads and landings.
Include all relevant PDC in Silviculture prescriptions and burn plan objectives for all fuel treatment activities within RHCA's.
Use all available fuel treatments and preparation activities as necessary (e.g. multiple entries, slash pull-back; modified ignition methods, locations, timing, and sequence; thinning of small green trees; pruning of green trees and snags, prescribed fire, fire suppression, jack pot burning, etc.) to achieve the specific PDC. Suppression should be used only as a last resort to achieve other PDC.

For perennial and fish-bearing stream channels:
Avoid removing trees along stream banks (e.g. don't cause bank instability or increase erosion)
Within 100' of the stream channel backing fire is preferred.
Within primary shade zone retain 100% of the over-story canopy closure with the exception of hardwood treatment.

For intermittent, non-fish-bearing stream channels:

Within 50' of the stream channel backing fire is preferred.

For the maintenance and use of water sources and draft sites:
Minimize disturbance of existing riparian vegetation to the greatest extent practical; in particular, maintain shade, bank stability, and large woody material recruitment potential.
Use sediment control measures such as straw bales, filter cloth, or sediment fences when conditions warrant.
Maximize maintenance activities during late summer and early fall to best avoid wet conditions.
Do not pump from streams that do not have continuous surface flow. When pumping water in all situations from streams, ensure that at least one-half of the original streamflow remains below the pump site.
Refuel power equipment, or use absorbent pads for immobile equipment, and prepare concrete at least 150 feet (or as far as possible from the water body where local site conditions do not allow a 150 foot setback) from water bodies to prevent direct delivery of contaminants into associated water bodies.
Fisheries, hydrology or other qualified personnel must work with engineering/fire personnel to review proposed activities to minimize potential effects to fish, stream channel conditions, and water quality.
Use and develop off-channel ponds outside of stream channels were feasible and appropriate. Work with fire folks to prioritize and decommission unnecessary in-stream drafting sites.
Water withdrawal equipment must have a fish screen installed, operated and maintained in accordance to NOAA Fisheries guidelines.

Wildlife

Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

If wolves become established (denning) while project implementation is occurring, measures will be taken to avoid activity in that vicinity

If any evidence of wolverines is discovered during project implementation, measures will be taken to provide protection. If a den is found we would protect it from human disturbance.

Raptors

No activities will occur within currently known goshawk or other raptor nest stands. To conserve nesting habitat and to minimize disturbance to nesting individuals, restrictions would be executed according to the requirements of the species involved.

With all newly discovered raptor nests, a buffer zone would be established by the wildlife biologist to restrict activities near the nest area during occupancy.

Where possible, retain trees with inactive nests that may be important to secondary nesters (e.g. Great Gray Owl).

Any snags in riparian areas or uplands will be protected from disturbance, removal, or use in stream restoration activities unless deemed a safety hazard at a specific work site.

Big Game

Within big game winter range a wildlife biologist will be consulted between December 1 and April 1 to determine if activities should be restricted for big game needs.

Botany

Note: Pre-implementation planning project design criteria are identified.

Rare and Sensitive Plants and Habitats

Pre-Implementation: Proposed restoration projects shall be completely surveyed early in the implementation planning process by a qualified botanist or rare plant technician, to identify and assess any sensitive or rare plant populations or habitats.

Pre-Implementation: Proposed restoration projects shall develop restoration plans for degraded sensitive species habitats and/or mitigation plans in areas where sensitive plant populations are documented. This shall be accomplished by a journey-level Forest Service botanist in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team and other stakeholders.

Heavy equipment, vehicle operation, road construction, staging areas, stockpile areas, piling of slash, fence construction, recreation sites, prescribed fires, fire lines, and other operational activities shall not be allowed in any documented sensitive plant sites unless it is for the demonstrated benefit or protection of the site. All sensitive plant populations should be buffered 100 ft. from all operational activities where topography does not restrict such a distance. Sensitive plant sites and associated buffers shall be identified as Areas to Protect (ATPs).

Sensitive and Unique Habitats

The integrity of unique habitats shall be maintained. Unique habitats [may] include meadows, rimrock, talus slopes, cliffs, animal dens, wallows, bogs [fens], seeps and springs. This shall be accomplished by incorporating cover buffers approximately 100 feet in width.

Heavy equipment, vehicle operation, road construction, staging areas, stockpile areas, piling of slash, fence construction, recreation sites, prescribed fires, fire lines, and other operational activities shall not occur within, or at the interface of lithosols (scablands).

Cutting of old-growth juniper shall be prohibited. Old-growth characteristics include: sparse limbs, dead limbed or spiked-tops, deeply furrowed and fibrous bark, branches covered with bright-

green arboreal lichens, noticeable decay of cambium layer at base of tree, and limited terminal leader growth in upper branches.

Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems

The integrity of groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDE) shall be maintained. Spring developments shall not dewater GDEs. Spring developments shall not be allowed if the spring is occupied by rare or sensitive plant species, or in peatlands, fens, or where histic soils are present. These sites should be buffered 100 ft. from all operational activities where topography does not restrict such a distance, and be identified as Areas to Protect (ATPs).

Heavy equipment, vehicle operation, road construction, staging areas, stockpile areas, piling of slash, fence construction, fire lines, and other operational activities shall not be allowed in springs, seeps, or any other GDE, unless it is for the benefit or protection of the GDE or development of the spring.

Spring developments should not disturb the spring orifice (point where water emerges). Spring head boxes should be placed in a location that will cause the least amount of disturbance to the soils and vegetation of the GDE. Preferable locations for spring head boxes should be in an established channel downstream from the orifice or a location where flowing water becomes subsurface.

When necessary, construct fenced exclosures around spring developments to prevent damage from wild ungulates and livestock.

Spring developments shall have a return flow system to minimize the diversion of surface and subsurface water from the catchment area. Consider using a float valve or similar device to reduce the amount of water withdrawn from the GDE.

When developing springs, place troughs far enough away from GDEs, wetlands, and other sensitive or unique habitats to prevent erosion, compaction, or degradation to sensitive soils and vegetation due to livestock congregation.

Invasive Plant Species

Pre-Implementation: Proposed restoration projects shall be surveyed for invasive plants early in the implementation planning process by a qualified invasive plant specialist /technician, to identify and assess any undocumented invasive plant infestation.

Pre-Implementation: For project areas that overlap or are adjacent to invasive plant infestations, assure that there is sufficient time prior to develop a long-term site strategy for control, eradication, and revegetation of the site. This shall be accomplished by a qualified invasive plant specialist in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team and other stakeholders.

All activities shall be conducted in a manner as to minimize or prevent the potential spread or establishment of invasive species.

Actions conducted on National Forest System Lands that will operate outside the limits of the road prism, require the cleaning of all heavy equipment (bulldozers, skidders, graders, backhoes, dump trucks, etc.) prior to entering the National Forest. Cleaning will be inspected and approved by the forest officer in charge of administering the project.

Assure that all materials are weed-free. Use weed-free straw and mulch for all projects conducted or authorized by the Forest Service on National Forest System Lands. If State certified straw and/or mulch is not available, individual Forests should require sources certified to be weed-free using the North American Weed Free Forage Program standards or a similar certification process.

Inspect active gravel, fill, sand stockpiles, quarry sites, and borrow material for invasive plants before use and transport. Treat or require treatment of infested sources before any use of pit material. Use only gravel, fill, sand, and/or rock that are judged to be weed free by District or Forest weed specialists.

Prohibit heavy equipment operation, vehicle travel, staging areas, fire-control lines, and any other operational activities in invasive plant infestations, unless the activities are for the express purpose of eradicating the infestation or INV1 and INV2 have been completed.

Conduct post-implementation monitoring for invasive plants. Continue monitoring, treating, and removing invasive plants until all infestations are eradicated and native plant species are well established.

Native Plant Materials and Revegetation

Pre-Implementation: Where the need for native plant materials is anticipated, assure that there is sufficient time for the plant materials specialist to develop a native plant materials plan and/or prescription prior to implementation of planned revegetation, rehabilitation, and restoration projects. This may include allowing for enough time to harvest and store hardwood cuttings, produce suitable quantities of native seed, and/or grow-out container stock.

Locally adapted, genetically appropriate native plant materials are the first choice for use in revegetation, restoration and rehabilitation, where timely natural regeneration of the native plant community is not likely to occur. Use a diverse assemblage of species that have the potential to naturally occur in the project area. Acquire native seed or plant sources as close to the watershed as possible. Examples of areas that may need treatment include: habitat restoration efforts, log decks, staging areas, landing zones, temporary roads, slash piles, culvert replacements, severely burned areas, skid trails, decommissioned roads, invasive species treatments, and other disturbances.

Non-native, non-invasive plant species may be used in the following situations: (1) when needed in emergency conditions to protect basic resource values (e.g., soil stability, water quality, and to help prevent the establishment of invasive species), (2) as an interim, non-persistent measure designed to aid in the re-establishment of native plants, (3) if native plant materials are not available and/or are not economically feasible, and (4) in permanently altered plant communities.

Under no circumstances shall non-native invasive plant species and/or noxious weeds be used for revegetation.

Development, review and/or approval of revegetation, rehabilitation, and restoration prescriptions, including species selection, genetic heritage, growth stage, seed mixes, sowing guidelines, and any needed site preparation, shall be accomplished by a plant materials specialist who is knowledgeable and trained or certified in the plant community type where the revegetation will occur.

Concentrate plantings above the bank-full elevation. Sedge and rush mats should be placed and sized to prevent their movement during high flow events.

Newly planted and/or seeded areas should be protected from animals and activities that may prevent, retard, or slow the establishment and recovery of native vegetation. Site-specific measures may include building fences, piling slash, jackstrawing, closing areas to vehicles, and/or temporarily changing grazing regimes until the desired condition is sufficiently achieved.

Soils

For projects involving heavy machinery off roads, the project proponents shall inspect the site for existing impacts to the soil. If existing impacts appear to be heavy on the Malheur or moderate on the Ochoco, they shall contact a soil scientist, who shall determine what site specific project design criteria are necessary to meet Forest Plan and Forest Service Manual standards and guidelines. (If a soil scientist is not available, a silviculturist or hydrologist can do the work.) If standards and guidelines cannot be met, heavy machinery shall not be used.

Erosion would be minimized by following General Aquatic Conservation Measures and by implementing the appropriate project design criteria based on the type of activity (see appendix A).

Erosion from heavy machinery use would be minimized; by minimizing compaction and puddling, rutting would be minimized.
For Livestock Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Watering Facilities, out-of-channel erosion would be minimized.
For Road Erosion Control, erosion would be minimized.
For Juniper Removal, erosion would be minimized. It is possible that Juniper Removal would increase ground cover within a few years, and thereby reduce erosion.
Prescribed Fire (including for disposal of slash after Juniper removal) can involve only low and moderate severity fire, and erosion from fire lines would be minimized, so erosion from prescribed fire would not be significant.

Additional Soils PDCs added April 2018

Soil Protection Guidance for Aquatic Restoration Projects Using Heavy Equipment Off Roads
Hersh McNeil, Tom Friedrichsen, & Steve Namitz 3-20-18

The following are soil protection practices typically used to minimize adverse effects to the environment, in order to meet desired soil conditions (including Forest Plan standards) as well as Project Design Criteria described in the Aquatic Restoration EA.

Avoid heavy machinery travel ("HMT") on slopes steeper than 35 percent, where feasible.
No heavy equipment shall be allowed on highly erodible soil. “Highly erodible soil” generally means areas larger than 50 feet diameter, and either: (1) steeper than 30 percent, with less than 75 percent ground cover, (2) 20-30 percent slope with less than 50 percent ground cover, (3) 10-19 percent slope with less than 25 percent ground cover, or (4) with signs of current erosion, such as pedestaling or rilling.
For tree-tipping or removal for LWD projects ---- On areas where existing skid trails spaced 100 to 140 feet apart can be reused, reuse the old skid trails. Otherwise, space HMT travel ways about 120 feet apart where practical, using existing skid trails where possible and appropriate. Travel ways ("trails") should average less than 14 feet wide.
Low ground pressure equipment (less than 8.5 pounds per square inch [psi]) can be allowed off trails on dry, snow-covered, or frozen soil. For soil protection practices “dry” means July through September, or obviously dry in 6 of the top 10 inches in other months; “snow-covered” means sufficient snow strength and depth to prevent compaction; “frozen” means the soil is frozen at least through the top 4 inches.
Tree tipping trails shall be covered with slash to reduce runoff and erosion.

Fire and Fuels

Mechanical tools may be necessary to prepare fire control lines for these burns, but would be limited, and typically no heavy equipment would be used. Prescribed burns or wildfires could temporarily affect air quality.
The project design criteria for both Juniper Removal and Riparian Vegetation Treatment (controlled burning) would be followed. National, state, and local policies regarding prescribed fire implementation will be met.
Activities that are expected to create smoke emissions would follow the State of Oregon Smoke Management Plan. Prior to burning, approval will be obtained from the Oregon Department of Forestry, who determines compliance with the Clean Air Act. State smoke forecasts, which

predict wind direction and smoke mixing height, will be obtained prior to all burning to ensure smoke intrusions will not occur in the local smoke sensitive receptor areas.

Burning will follow the guidance provided by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (Directive 1-4-1-601, Operational Guidance for the Oregon Smoke Management Program), which is an agreement between federal land management agencies in northeast Oregon and Oregon Department of Forestry limiting smoke emission amounts. Oregon Department of Forestry monitors activity, and if a limit is reached it will shut down prescribed fire activity.

Heritage Resources

Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for activities authorized under this analysis will be completed and concurred with by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office before any ground disturbing action takes place. For each potential activity the District or Zone archaeologist will determine which of the criteria in the 2004 Programmatic Agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office best fit the particular project. This will vary somewhat project to project based on the scale of the particular activity, the location on the landscape, and the nature of associated cultural resources, if any.

The District or Zone archaeologist will document their findings on a Programmatic Agreement form with a project description, rationale and location map which will be attached to the Forest Service Heritage Event database. The Forest archaeologist will review and sign off on the Programmatic Review form if concurred with. For appendices A, B and C projects as defined in the 2004 Programmatic Agreement, the Forest will retain the documentation and provide the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office with the annual summary of projects as described in the Preservation Act.

For full inventories the District or Zone archaeologist will complete an inventory report meeting current Oregon State Historic Preservation Office standards which will be reviewed by the Forest archaeologist. The Forest archaeologist will forward the completed inventory report to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office for review and concurrence signature or further discussion as appropriate.

Consultation with Native American tribes is conducted under the terms of the Memorandums of Understanding the Forest has with each individual tribe. The Forest regularly consults with the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation.

For work requiring a full inventory under the terms of the 2004 Programmatic Agreement any identified cultural resources sites will generally be avoided. For cases where site avoidance is impractical mitigation procedures will be developed in consultation with the Oregon SHPO before project work begins.

If any previously unidentified cultural resources are located during project implementation, ground disturbing work will be halted until the resources are evaluated by the District or Zone archaeologist. If the cultural resources are determined to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places work will either be permanently halted or a mitigation plan will be developed in consultation with the Oregon SHPO before work continues.

Recreation

Motorized aquatic restoration methods would not be used within Wilderness, Wild portions of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Mechanized aquatic restoration methods would not be used within Wilderness or Wild portions of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Grazing

General

Range and Fire Specialists and permittees would coordinate activities including scheduling of burning activities in grazing units.

Utilize the Forest Post-Fire Interim Grazing Guidelines to aid in determining when to resume grazing activities.

Whenever possible, units to be rested would be burned in the spring of the year to be rested or in the fall prior to the rest year.

If a rest period is required following a burn the permittee has the option to exclude cattle grazing from those portions of a pasture that were burned through the use of fencing and could continue to graze the unburned areas of a unit.

Protection of Government and Permittee Investments

All existing structural range improvements (fences, gates, spring developments, etc) and permanent ecological plots would be contractually protected.

Maintain structural integrity of range improvements.

If structural improvements are damaged during project operations they would be repaired to Forest Service standards prior to livestock scheduled use by the party responsible for causing the damage. Repairs would be required of the purchaser if damage were done during thinning or fuel treatment contractors or by force account where appropriate.

Three or more splices to a single wire within a distance of 20 feet will be replaced with a single splice.

Fence right of ways (6ft either side of fence), trails, other developments and access to them would be cleared of slash produced by project activities.

Aspen Restoration

New aspen exclosure fences would have gates installed in proper locations to allow for removal of stray livestock. Aspen fences would be maintained each year and repaired whenever necessary. Plans for aspen exclosures will define when restoration of the protected stand has been achieved and who has responsibility for maintenance of the structure. When fences are no longer needed, aspen fences should be removed.

Alternate livestock water sources to those being used in aspen stands would be developed off-site before fencing aspen or re-evaluate fencing of the aspen site. Coordinate with range specialist and permittee.

Notification

During planning stage of each individual project all potentially impacted grazing permittees will have notice of action and opportunity to provide input that may lessen impacts to their livestock operation well in advance of implementation.

Prior to implementation all potentially impacted grazing permittees will be given notice of dates when work will start.