

Survey and Manage Plant and Animal Species

Affected Environment

Plant and animal species designated as “survey and manage species” consist of over 300 species closely associated with late-successional or old-growth forest in the region that are managed through a specific set of standards and guidelines associated with the 1994 record of decision for the Northwest Forest Plan. (For descriptions of species habitats and a current survey and manage species list, see the Survey and Manage website¹ and the Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Program website² for survey protocols, management recommendations, species fact sheets, or conservation assessments.)

Environmental Consequences

Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects

The January 2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines amended all land management plans within the range of the northern spotted owl (also known as the Northwest Forest Plan area). These standards and guidelines require pre-disturbance surveys prior to habitat-disturbing activities and management of known sites for certain categories of survey and manage fauna and flora species. Legal rulings (as modified by Judge Pechman’s January 9, 2006 order and subsequent changes to that order on October 10, 2006) modified those requirements exempting surveys and site management for four categories of projects. Two of the exempted categories of projects (culvert removal or replacement and riparian and stream restoration projects) apply to 15 of the 19 aquatic restoration actions proposed in this project.

For the four categories of projects not covered by the Pechman exemptions (bull trout protection, fencing and stream crossings to protect aquatic restoration projects, juniper removal, and riparian vegetation treatment (controlled burning)), Survey and Manage fauna and flora species’ habitats, if encountered, would be avoided by project design. In addition, the Survey and Manage standards and guidelines would not likely apply to juniper removal or fencing and stream crossings projects because these actions would likely occur outside of the Northwest Forest Plan area.

There would be no direct or indirect effects to survey and manage species from Bull trout protection, fencing and stream crossings, juniper removal, and riparian vegetation treatment (controlled burning) due to avoiding Survey and Manage fauna and flora species’ habitats. The Survey and Manage persistence objective of providing for a reasonable assurance of species persistence would be met (January 2001 ROD S&Gs, pgs. 3-4).

Since there would be no direct or indirect effects to Survey and Manage species, there would be no cumulative effects.

¹ <https://www.blm.gov/or/plans/surveyandmanage/>

² <https://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/>

Consistency Statement

The proposed actions are in compliance with the *January 2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* that amended all National Forest and Scenic Area land and resource management plans within the range of the Northern spotted owl (Northwest Forest Plan area) as modified by Judge Pechman's January 9, 2006 order and subsequent modification of that order on October 10, 2006.

In 2004, the agency signed a record of decision to remove the Survey and Manage standards and guidelines. Litigation on that decision was resolved in 2006 by Judge Marsh J. Pechman. Her January 9, 2006 order set aside the record of decision dated March 22, 2004 and required the FS and BLM to not rely on it or implement it and reinstated the January 2001 record of decision including any amendments and modifications that were in effect as of March 21, 2004. On October 11, 2006, Judge Pechman issued an order, which modified her January 9, 2006 order. That October 11, 2006 order amended one paragraph of the January 9, 2006 order. "Defendants shall not authorize, allow or permit to continue any logging or other habitat-disturbing activities on projects to which the 2004 ROD applied unless such activities are in compliance with the 2001 ROD (as the 2001 ROD was amended or modified as of March 21, 2004), except that this order will not apply to" four categories of projects (*Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, et. al., v. Mark E. Rey, et. al., No. 04-844P and C04-844-P*). Two of the four exempted categories apply to actions proposed in this analysis and are as follows:

1. Replacing culverts on roads that are in use and part of the road system, and removing culverts if the road is temporary or to be decommissioned; and
2. Riparian and stream improvement projects where the riparian work is riparian planting, obtaining material for placing in-stream, and road or trail decommissioning; and where the stream improvement work is the placement of large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions.

Fifteen of the 19 actions included in this environmental analysis fit within these two Pechman exemptions, therefore, the January 2001 ROD and S&Gs do not apply to these activities. Four of the 19 actions included in this analysis do not fit within the Pechman exemptions. The four actions are bull trout protection, fencing and stream crossings to protect aquatic restoration projects, juniper removal, and riparian vegetation treatment (controlled burning).

For these four aquatic restoration activities, if suitable habitat for a Survey and Manage fauna or flora species occurs within the project area and the activity is considered to be habitat-disturbing, the activity location would be moved or modified to not trigger Survey and Manage species pre-disturbance surveys. By avoiding the Survey and Manage flora and fauna species habitats, there would no likelihood of species occurrence and the need for managing known sites.