

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UPPER COLUMBIA-SALMON CLEARWATER DISTRICT**

COTTONWOOD FIELD OFFICE

**LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS AND
NEPA DOCUMENTATION**

March 24, 2004

Contact the listed person for project-specific information. For general information, call Stephanie Snook, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (208) 769-5004 or email Stephanie_Snook@blm.gov

NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act
CX = Categorical Exclusion
EA = Environmental Assessment
T. = Township, R. = Range, Sec. = Section

Contact Person: Craig Johnson

Telephone #: (208) 962-3688

Project Name & Brief Description: American River Drainage Fisheries and Watershed Restoration Projects are part of an ongoing BLM aquatic and watershed restoration program for the Elk City township. Specific actions include the following: (1) American River Instream Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects; (2) Telephone Creek Road to ATV Trail Conversion Project; (3) East Fork American River Culvert Replacement Project; and (4) American River Ford and Meadow Restoration Project.

Project Type/Size: Stream and Watershed Restoration Project

Location including county: Restoration projects occur in the vicinity of Elk City in the American River drainage and occurs in T. 29 N., R. 8 E., Sections 2, 3, 25, 27, 28, and 33. Specific watersheds proposed for restoration actions include American River, East Fork American River, and Telephone Creek.

Type of NEPA document: EA

EA #: ID-087-04-03

Date Decision Record is expected to be signed: July, 2004

Date Project is expected to begin: Summer 2004 or 2005.

Project implementation will take place over a two- to three-year period.

Special Management Areas involved: Rivers and streams provides habitat for federally listed steelhead trout and bull trout; and BLM sensitive fish species. Elk City Zone Aquatic Zone Habitat Management Plan area.

Remarks: Because of the complexity of the project a large number of issues and concerns have been identified. Primary issues include: effects to federally listed and BLM sensitive fish; cumulative effects to water quality from on-going and planned federal and private actions; public access; potential effects to historic resources; potential effects to mining claimants; etc.

Contact Person: Craig Johnson

Telephone #: (208) 962-3688

Project Name & Brief Description: Buffalo Gulch Culvert Replacement and Modification Project - Several culverts in the Buffalo Gulch drainage are partial/full fish passage barriers for adult and juvenile fish. The proposal is to replace three culverts to 100-year flow events. During culvert installation the work site would be de-watered. Erosion and sediment control measures would be used to minimize adverse effects. In addition, the culvert located at the mouth (Highway 14 – Idaho Transportation Department) of Buffalo Gulch will be evaluated for feasibility to improve fish passage. The proposed instream culvert replacement work window would be July 1 through October 1.

Project Type/Size: Fisheries Enhancement Project - Culvert replacement

Location including county: The project area is within the Buffalo Gulch drainage, which occurs in the vicinity of Elk City, Idaho County. The project area is located in T. 29 N., R. 8 E., Sections 7, 21, 27, and 28.

Type of NEPA document: EA

EA #: ID-087-EA-04-07

Date Decision Record is expected to be signed: May 1, 2004

Date Project is expected to begin: Summer of 2004 or 2005

Special Management Areas involved: Buffalo Gulch provides habitat for federally listed steelhead trout. Buffalo Gulch is listed in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as impaired and does not meet State water quality standards.

Remarks: Primary issues include: effects to federally listed and BLM sensitive fish species; cumulative effects to water quality from ongoing and planned federal and private actions; Buffalo Gulch is on State of Idaho's 303(d) list; and short term impacts to public vehicle access during the duration of project construction.

Contact Person: Craig Johnson

Telephone #: (208) 962-3688

Project Name & Brief Description: Cottonwood Travel Management Plan will designate road/trail use areas and off-road vehicle use designations and limitations. Road and area designations may include the following: (1) open with no special restrictions, (2) limitations on the type of vehicles, season of use, permitted or authorized use, and limited use areas, (3) designated roads or trails, and (4) areas closed to all motorized use. The travel plan will not convey access rights to the public on roads not controlled by the BLM. Current use authorization or licenses involving road uses and terms of existing right-of-ways will remain in full force and effect.

Project Type/Size: Cottonwood Field Office, Area-Wide

Location including county: The Cottonwood Field Office area is located in north-central Idaho and public lands occur in Valley, Idaho, Clearwater, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Latah Counties.

Type of NEPA document: EA

EA #: ID-087-EA-04-04

(note: new EA number, replaces ID-080-2001-07)

Date Decision Record is expected to be signed: April 15, 2004

Date Project is expected to begin: Implementation June 2004

Special Management Areas involved:

Remarks: This is an ongoing NEPA project which has gone through previous public notice and meetings.

Contact Person: Robbin Boyce

Telephone #: (208) 962-3594

Project Name & Brief Description: Eastside Township

The Proposed Action would utilize commercial and non-commercial treatments of forest stands, followed by fuel reduction (burning or biomass utilization), to accomplish hazardous fuel reduction. Approximately nine (9) miles of temporary road may be required to implement the Proposed Action. Log yarding could include helicopter, ground-based, and cable systems. Road closure, decommissioning, conversion of roads to trails, riparian treatments, and in-stream habitat modification could be used to improve fish habitat and aquatic conditions.

Project Type/Size: Forest Management / 1,000 acres

Location including county: Elk City, ID (Idaho)

Type of NEPA document: EA

EA #: ID-087-04-03

Date Decision Record is expected to be signed: May 2005

Date Project is expected to begin: Summer 2005

Special Management Areas involved: Wildland Urban Interface, T&E species habitat.

Remarks: The majority of the analysis area is within 1½ air miles of Elk City and its surrounding community, and several subdivisions are immediately adjacent to the analysis area. The Purpose and Need for the Eastside Project was developed to meet the direction of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (PL 108-148). The Healthy Forest Restoration Act places an emphasis on treating hazardous fuel conditions which could threaten residential areas and natural resources.

Contact Person: Dean Huibregtse

Telephone #: (208)-962-3784

Project Name & Brief Description: Swartz Bar Fence involves the construction of 600 feet of four-strand barbed wire fence. A small area will be fenced to prevent further degradation of an exposed, eroding cutbank.

Project Type/Size: 600 feet of fence

Location including county: Salmon River, Idaho County

Type of NEPA document: CX

EA or CX number: ID-087-04-03

Date Decision Record is expected to be signed: March 12, 2004

Date Project is expected to begin: March 15, 2004

Contact Person: David Overcast

Telephone #: (208) 962-3786

Project Name & Brief Description: Cottonwood Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP). Fire Management Plans are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on an area's land use plan. The FMP will discuss wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire, non-fire fuels treatments and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation. An FMP must provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; and be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations. Wildland fire use will also be considered within the Craig Mountain Cooperative Management Area

Project Type/Size: Fire management plan for 149,129 acres of public land within the Cottonwood Field Office

Location including county: Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho and Adams counties

Type of NEPA document: EA

EA #: ID-087-EA-04-07

Date Decision Record is expected to be signed: 9-30-2004

Date Project is expected to begin: 10-01-2003

Special Management Areas involved: Field Office wide