

Appendix B – Wildlife Biological Assessment

Appendix B

Upper McKenzie Boat Launch EA

Wildlife Biological Evaluation

Purpose/Location

The purpose of this Biological Evaluation is to review the McKenzie River Boat Launch Project in sufficient detail to determine whether the proposed action will result in a trend toward Federal listing of any sensitive wildlife species, or if the proposed action will affect wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

For specific project information, please refer to the Environmental Assessment and Analysis File.

Proposed Action and Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve access, reduce safety hazards, and minimize sediment delivery to the river by reconstructing the Frissell, Paradise and Bruckart boat launches.

Summary of Mitigation Measures for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Wildlife

There are no required wildlife restrictions for this project. Avoiding disturbing activities during the critical spotted owl breeding season March 1 – July 15 is recommended but not required as the closest owl activity center is over 0.5 miles away. Annual bald eagle surveys have failed to document any eagle nests or roosts in the project area. Avoiding disturbing activities in potential bald eagle habitat during the breeding season January 1 – August 31 is recommended but not required as the closest active bald eagle nest is over 2 miles away. The project is adjacent to Highway 126 and the McKenzie River which generate high levels of ambient noise.

Minimize damage to existing adjacent trees and vegetation during the project. Protection of the adjacent larger diameter trees and snags planned to be left shall be a priority when implementing the project.

Prefield Review

A prefield review of the proposed project area for wildlife species listed on the 2002 Regional Forester's List for the Willamette National Forest was conducted. There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) wildlife species located within the proposed McKenzie River Boat Launch project area. There is potential habitat for some species, however, and there are species located in the landscape that could be impacted directly by disturbance created during these activities or by the potential future habitat condition of the stands treated. Table 1 lists each TES species, the potential for effects from the proposed action, and mitigation measures necessary to alleviate potential effects.

Table 1: Summary of Impact Determinations for Wildlife Species on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List, Willamette National Forest. The Regional Forester is required to develop a sensitive species list under Forest Service Manual 2672.11. The Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List for Animals was last revised September 2002 (Forest Service Manual 2670 Interim Directive 90-1).

TES Species	Habitat present?	Impact/Required Mitigation
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	No Habitat	NI
Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i>	No Habitat	NI
Harlequin Duck <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Habitat	NI
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	No Habitat	NI
Black Swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	No Habitat	NI
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	No Habitat	NI
Baird's Shrew <i>Sorex bairdii permiliensis</i>	Habitat	NI
Pacific Shrew <i>Sorex pacificus cascadenis</i>	Habitat Class III and IV streams	NI
California wolverine <i>Gulo gulo</i>	No Habitat	NI
Pacific Fisher <i>Martes pennanti</i>	Habitat	NI
Pacific Fringe-tailed Bat <i>Myotis thysanodes vespertinu</i>	No Habitat	NI
Townsend's Big-eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Habitat	NI
Oregon Slender Salamander <i>Batrachoseps wrighti</i>	Habitat	NI
Cascade Torrent Salamander <i>Rhyacotriton cascadae</i>	Habitat	NI

TES Species	Proposed Action)	Impact/Required Mitigation
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	No Habitat	NI
Oregon Spotted Frog <i>Rana pretiosa</i>	No Habitat	NI
Northwestern Pond Turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	No Habitat	NI
North American Lynx <i>Felis lynx canadensis</i>	No Habitat	NI
Northern Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis</i>	Habitat	NE
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	No Habitat	NI
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Habitat along haul road only	NE
Mardon Skipper <i>Polites mardon</i>	No Habitat	NI

NI / NE== No Impact for sensitive species. No Effect for TE species.

NLCT = May impact individuals or their habitat, but the action will Not Likely Contribute to a Trend towards Federal Listing or loss of viability to the population or species.

MANLAA=May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect.

MCT = May impact individuals or their habitat, with a consequence that the action May Contribute to a Trend towards Federal Listing or a loss of viability to the population or species.

BI = Beneficial Impact.

Effects of the Proposed Project

There are no impacts/effects to any TES species with the implementation of Alternative 1, No Action.

Northern Spotted Owls: The boat launch areas are not currently providing spotted owl habitat. The project area is within three historic 1.2 mile radius northern spotted owl homeranges. The closest known activity center is over 0.5 miles away. A seasonal operating restriction from March 1-July 15 is recommended but not required. The project is adjacent to highway 126 and the McKenzie River and ambient noise levels are continually high. Alternatives 2 and 3 will have no effect on the northern spotted owl.

Bald eagles: The boat launch areas are not currently providing high quality bald eagle habitat. Noise generated from this project could disturb this species. Implementation of Alternatives 2 and

3 will not affect bald eagles. A seasonal restriction from January 1-August 30 is recommended but not required.

Harlequin ducks: There is no habitat for this species in the existing boat launches. However, riparian habitat adjacent to the boat launches may be suitable for harlequin duck dispersal. Implementation of Alternative 2 and 3 will not impact harlequin ducks.

No other TES wildlife species will be affected or impacted with this project.

Prepared by: /s/ Shane Kamrath, Wildlife Biologist
McKenzie River Ranger District
April 8, 2004

Table 2: Summary of Biological Background for Animal Species on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List, Willamette National Forest (September 2002).

Species	Habitat
BIRDS	
Northern Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> <i>Status: Threatened</i>	Occur primarily in the interior of older timber stands with structure required for food, cover, nest sites, and protection from weather and predation. Reproductive habitat = forest w/ canopy closure 60 – 80%; multi-layered, multi-species canopy dominated by large overstory trees (> 30" dbh); abundant large trees w/deformities (e.g. large cavities, broken tops, dwarf-mistletoe infections, decadence); abundant large snags/down logs; and sufficient open flying space below the canopy. Foraging habitat = forest w/ > 2 canopy layers; overstory trees > 21" DBH; abundant snags/down wood; and a 60-80% canopy closure. Dispersal habitat = forest w/ > 11" DBH trees and > 40% canopy closure. Numerous nests recorded on the McKenzie River RD.
Northern Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> <i>Status: Threatened</i>	Use scattered old-growth conifer trees in proximity to rivers, lakes, and reservoirs with plentiful prey. Feed primarily on fish, but will also eat waterfowl and carrion. On the McKenzie River RD, they currently nest at Clear Lake and Blue River Reservoir. There have been sightings at Trailbridge, Cougar, and Smith Reservoirs, Fish, Linton and Lost Lakes and along the McKenzie River.
American Peregrine Falcon <i>Falcon peregrinus anatum</i> <i>Status: Sensitive</i>	Preferred nesting sites are sheer cliffs 75 ft. or more in height. They forage within a variety of forest types. Numerous potential and occupied habitat occurs on the McKenzie River RD.
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> <i>Status: Sensitive</i>	Freshwater or brackish marshes with tall vegetation. Stalks through the weeds to find prey. Eats small fish, frogs, insects, small mammals, and sometimes bird eggs and chicks. Nests is small platform of sticks and live or dead vegetation, placed in cattails, bulrushes, or bushes 8-14" above water. Sightings of individuals at Fern Ridge and Salem. No recorded sightings or habitat on the McKenzie River RD.
Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i> <i>Status: Sensitive</i>	Summers on wooded lakes and rivers, winters on lakes and coastal waters. Nesting normally occurs near lakes in tree cavities 5-50 feet high. Dives underwater and eats small mollusks, fish, snail, and crustaceans. Also eats aquatic insects. Only documented wintering on McKenzie River RD.
Harlequin Duck <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> <i>Status: Sensitive</i>	During nesting (April-June) adults require fast-flowing water with one + loafing sites nearby, dense shrub or timber/shrub mosaic vegetation on the bank, and an absence of human disturbance. Nest on ground under the shelter of vegetation, rocks, or large woody debris. Midstream loafing sites are very important. Broods prefer low gradient streams with adequate macroinvertebrate abundance. Recorded breeding/foraging in tributaries to the McKenzie River and foraging in the McKenzie River.
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> <i>Status: Sensitive</i>	Feeds in shallow water, eating snails, insects, and some seeds and grasses. Summers on wet meadows, marshes, winters on grasslands, fields, coastal marshes. No documented habitat on McKenzie River RD.

Species	Habitat
Black Swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i> Status: Sensitive	Found near cliffs in mountainous regions. Feeds on-the-wing eating flying insects. Nests in small colonies on ledges or mountain crevices, often behind a waterfall. There are historical summer records in the Santiam Pass area, Linn County, which suggests breeding in that area. No current sightings on the McKenzie River RD.
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Status: Sensitive	Found in freshwater marshes w/cattails and dense shrubs, grain fields. Feeds on the ground, eating insects, grains, and weed seeds. Nests in large colonies. Nest of coarse reeds and grasses lined with finer material placed in reeds above ground or water. Breeds locally in eastern Rogue Valley, S. Klamath Co, and mainly in north-central Oregon. Scattered summer reports in Willamette Valley. No documented sightings on the McKenzie River RD.
MAMMALS	
Baird's Shrew <i>Sorex bairdii permiliensis</i> Status: Sensitive	Not much is known of its habitat, but in 1986, 2 specimens were trapped from an open Douglas-fir forested area with numerous rotting logs in Polk Co. It has been trapped on the McKenzie River RD in the Mill Creek area and south as well as in the Blue River watershed.
Pacific Shrew <i>Sorex pacificus cascadenis</i> Status: Sensitive	Generally found in wet or marshy areas along class III-IV streams w/red alder-salmonberry-skunk cabbage and banks with abundant down material. Occasionally found in adjacent conifer forest w/moist abundant decaying logs and brush. Nests made of grasses, mosses, lichens, or leaves. Feed on slugs, snails, insects, and sometimes vegetation. No documented sightings on the McKenzie River RD.
Pacific Fisher <i>Martes pennanti</i> Status: Sensitive	Found in a wide variety of densely forested habitats at low to mid-elevations. Diet consists of small and medium-sized forest mammals (porcupines, snowshoe hares, tree squirrels, mice, and voles most common). Also eat carrion, and will seasonally eat birds, bird eggs, amphibians, fish, and insects. Use ground burrows, tree cavities, witches'-brooms or other clumped growth, or occasionally bird or small mammal nests as resting sites. Tree cavities are used by most maternal females with young and ground burrows are used mostly in winter. Data suggests they do better in areas with minimized fragmentation of old growth, second-growth, and riparian area and in areas with abundant down and standing woody material important. Few documented sightings on the McKenzie River RD, mostly in the higher elevations.
California Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo</i> Status: Sensitive	Found primarily in wilderness or remote country where human activity is limited. High elevation areas appear to be preferred in summer, which may effectively separate wolverines and intensive human disturbance in most areas. In winter, wolverines move to lower elevations which are snowbound with very limited human activity. They do not significantly use young, dense stands of timber or clearcuts. The majority of activity occurs in large expanses of scattered mature timber, with some use of ecotonal areas such as small timber pockets, and rocky, broken areas of timbered benches. Heavy use of openings w/ good winter populations of big game, a principal source of carrion which makes up much of the wolverine's diet. They also feed on marmots, snowshoe hares, various rodents, insects, insect larvae, eggs, and berries. Rare documented sightings on the McKenzie River RD, mostly at higher elevations.
Pacific Fringe-tailed Bat <i>Myotis thysanodes vespertinu</i> Status: Sensitive	Rare in Oregon. Very little known about habitat in Oregon. Three captured in 1971 were associated with young coniferous forest. They are known to use caves, mines, rock crevices, and buildings as both day and night roosts. Nothing is known about habits in winter. Diet of moths, leafhoppers, lacewings, daddy-loglegs, crickets, flies, true bugs, and spiders. No recorded sightings on the McKenzie River RD.

Species	Habitat
Canada Lynx <i>Felis lynx canadensis</i> Status: Threatened	At this time, the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List (2002) designated the lynx as suspected to occur on the Willamette National Forest. This species uses high elevation forested habitats that often coincide with populations of snowshoe hare. Forest conditions are generally lodgepole pine and subalpine fir.
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES	
Oregon Slender Salamander <i>Batrachoseps wrighti</i> Status: Sensitive	Live in forested areas, especially old-growth Douglas-fir and younger stands with abundant downed large logs. They lay their eggs under thick bark, inside a crevice in a log, or in talus. Juveniles and adults live under thick bark, inside partially decayed logs, or in debris piles around the bases of large snags. They also occur in moist talus w/ abundant woody debris. Documented sightings are scattered throughout McKenzie River RD at lower elevations.
Cascade Torrent Salamander <i>Rhyacotriton cascadae</i> Status: Sensitive	Live in very cold, clear springs, seeps, headwater streams, and waterfall splash zones. Forage in moist forests adjacent to these areas. Eggs are laid in rock crevices in seeps. Larve and adults live in gravel or under small cobbles in silt-free, very shallow water that is flowing or seeping. Adults may be found under debris on streambanks or in streamside forests and talus during rainy periods. Documented sightings from class IV stream headwater areas on McKenzie River RD.
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i> Status: Sensitive	Live in sections of low-gradient streams with exposed bedrock or rock and gravel substrates. Attach eggs to the bottom of quiet scour-pools or riffles in gentle-gradient streams, often where there is only slight flow from the main river. Hatchlings cling to egg masses initially and then to rocks. Nearest known sightings are on private land adjacent to the Sweet Home RD to the northwest. No documented habitat or sightings on the McKenzie River RD.
Oregon Spotted Frog <i>Rana pretiosa</i> Status: Candidate for Federal Listing	Favor lakes and slow moving streams associated w/a permanent water source w/ a soft and muddy bottom. A marsh specialist w/strong preference/requirement for warmer waters; more aquatic than other ranids; often found in water or water's edge floating on the surface or resting on aquatic vegetation. Diet is invertebrates caught above and below the surface. Early breeders: egg masses are typically deposited on top of one another in a communal fashion, not attached to vegetation, and deposited in warmer shallow water, making them susceptible to mortality due to freezing or drying. The only documented population on the McKenzie River RD occurs in and around Penn Lake in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area.
Northwestern Pond turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i> Status: Sensitive	Inhabits marshes, sloughs, moderately deep ponds, slow moving portions of creeks and rivers. Observed in altered habitats including reservoirs, abandoned gravel pits, stock ponds, and sewage treatment plants. Occur from sea level to about 1,830 meters. Require basking sites, such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, rocks and mud banks, and may even climb a short way onto tree branches that dip into the water. They use uplands for egg laying, overwintering, and dispersal. They may move up to 500 meters and possibly more for overwintering where they burrow into leaf litter or soil. Nest distances from the water course ranges from 3 meters to over 402 meters. Most nesting areas are characterized by sparse vegetation, usually short grasses or forbs. Documented sightings on the McKenzie River RD are in lower elevation side-channels of the McKenzie River.
INVERTEBRATES	
Mardon Skipper <i>Polites mardon</i> Status: Candidate for Federal Listing	The USFWS latest review indicated this species occurs in the Puget Sound and southern Cascades area of Washington, in the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon, and in isolated remnants on serpentine grasslands in Del Norte County, California. They are not known to occur in this part of the Oregon Cascades. They generally occur in grassy openings in subalpine coniferous forests in mountain regions.

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Appendix B: Upper Mckenzie River Boat Launch Project EA Survey and Manage, Management Indicator Species, and Landbird Analysis April 8, 2004

Survey and Manage

The Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001) amends the Northwest Forest Plan to provide a more efficient level of species protection. The ROD requires that all habitat altering projects consider their effects to Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Mitigation Measure species. These species are expected to soon be covered under the Sensitive Species program.

Table 1: Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Mitigation Measure Wildlife Species on the Willamette National Forest (ROD 2001, and updated with 2002 Annual Species Review results, March 2003). At the time of writing this document these species were covered under the Survey and Manage program. These species are expected to soon be covered under the Sensitive Species program.

SPECIES	Management Strategy	Habitat
Megomphix hemphilli (Linn and Marion Counties only)	A = Rare. Predisturbance surveys required. Manage known sites. 180' no-harvest buffer.	Forested areas with a hardwood component and down woody material
Megomphix hemphilli (S. of Linn/Benton Counties only)	F = Status Unknown. Strategic Surveys Required Only. Manage Known Sites. 180' no-harvest buffer.	Forested areas with a hardwood component and down woody material
Pristiloma arcticum crateris	B = Rare. Predisturbance Survey Required. Manage Known Sites. 180' no-harvest buffer.	Forested areas with a hardwood component and down woody material
Arthropods	F = Status Unknown. Strategic Surveys Required Only. 180' no-harvest buffer.	Unknown
Red Tree Vole	C = Uncommon. Predisturbance Survey Required. Manage High Priority Sites. 10 acre protection buffer.	Forested stands >10" DBH
Great Gray Owl	A = Rare. Predisturbance Survey Required. Manage Known Sites. 0.25 mile protection buffer on known site.	Mature stands near openings (natural or human-made)
Fringed myotis, silver-haired bat, long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis, and Townsend's big-eared bat.	Protect caves, abandoned mines, abandoned wooden bridges, and abandoned buildings.	Caves, mines, abandoned wooden bridges, and abandoned buildings.

SPECIES	Management Strategy	Habitat
Black-backed woodpecker	Manage snags to provide for 100% population levels	High elevation forests.
Pygmy nuthatch	Manage snags to provide for 100% population levels	High elevation forests.

Determination: Habitat for these species either does not occur in the project area or the activity is of a scope, scale, and intensity that the anticipated negative impact of the project on the habitat or life requirements of these species is so small as to not trigger a need to survey.

Management Indicator Species

Management Indicator Species (MIS) were addressed in the Willamette National Forest Plan (1990). They include the spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, marten, elk, deer, cavity excavators, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and fish. Through Region-wide coordination, each Forest identified the minimum habitat distribution and habitat characteristics needed to satisfy the life history needs of the MIS's. Management recommendations to ensure their viability were incorporated into all WNF FSEIS Action Alternatives. This project meets applicable Standards and Guidelines from the WNF Plan. The amount or characteristics of habitat is not significantly changed with this project. With the 1996 and 2001 Amendments to the WNF Plan (i.e. the Northwest Forest Plan, NWFP), persistence for spotted owls, pileated woodpeckers, and marten was evaluated, and the FSEIS indicated persistent populations would be maintained under the NWFP Standards and Guidelines (Appendix J2). This project meets applicable Standards and Guidelines from the NWFP.

Migratory Landbirds

A January 11, 2001 Executive Order outlines the "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds." Habitats vary broadly for this large group of species. The removal of standing trees and snags may unintentionally take individual migratory birds, but is not expected to have a measurable negative effect on bird populations because of the limited extent of the habitat removal. The seasonal restriction currently in place will restrict habitat-altering activities between March 1 through July 15, or August 30 if bald eagle surveys result in an extended seasonal restriction. This will reduce effects to nesting migratory birds, as well as non-migratory birds because most of them would have nested and fledged young by that time. Most primary and secondary cavity nesters complete nesting by the end of July (Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas 1995-1999).

/s/ Shane Kamrath
Wildlife Biologist

**Results of Prefield Review and Field Reconnaissance
for
Protection Buffer and
Survey and Manage Animal Species**

Willamette National Forest

Project Name: BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT

Location: Township 16S Range 5E and 6E

Is the project ground disturbing? Yes (if yes, then conduct survey if required by matrix) No
(if no, then document in project file)

Species	Habitat Present? Yes or N	Date Surveyed	Surveyors	Species Located	Additional Survey Needs? When and Where?
<i>Megomphix hemphi/li</i> Oregon megomphix	N/A	April 29, 2003 June 14, 2003	Shane Kamrath	No	No
<i>Pristiloma Articum</i> Crater Lake tightcoil	Yes	April 29, 2003	Shane Kamrath	No	No
<i>Strix nebulosa</i> Great gray owl	No	Surveys not required			
<i>Phenacomys (Arborimus)</i> Red tree vole	Yes	June 14, 2003	Shane Kamrath	No	No

As of January 2001, surveys for Oregon megomphix are only required in Linn County. This project is located in Lane county.

/s/ Shane Kamrath Date: 6/17/03
Wildlife Biologist