

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. EA-04-14
Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Caretaker Site Development**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

This action proposes development of a one-quarter acre site for a travel trailer/manufactured home to house a caretaker at the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard, hereafter referenced as the Orchard, located in Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 5 West, Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon, in the Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The 832.5-acre Orchard is located about three miles west of Lorane, Oregon in the upper Siuslaw River basin (Figure 1). The Orchard is managed on lands that are closed to all public use per Public Land Order (PLO) 6662.

B. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of the action is to develop a home site to accommodate a caretaker's travel trailer or manufactured home. The Orchard is a remote and extensive site with considerable BLM investment in facilities, equipment, and materials. Although security checks are done during off-hours by law enforcement and BLM staff, a permanent on-site presence is needed to reduce the potential for vandalism and theft.

C. CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

The Proposed Action and alternatives are in conformance with the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP) (Bureau of Land Management 1995), which states that seed orchards will be maintained and managed to produce seed as needed for ecosystem management projects (RMP, p. 263). It also addresses the need to plant improved stock on most of the harvested acres on the District requiring reforestation (RMP, pp. 262-263). Beyond this direction in the Forest Genetics Program appendix and the provisions in the Resource Program sections for Energy and Mineral, Land Tenure Adjustments, Rights-of-Way, Access and Withdrawals, the RMP does not apply to the Orchard, which has been administratively withdrawn (RMP, p. 100).

The Proposed Action and alternatives are also in conformance with the Lorane Seed Orchard Development Project (EA-OR090-3-35) (USDI Bureau of Land Management, 1983), which directs the development and management of the Orchard.

D. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

The Orchard is an administratively withdrawn area and does not fall under the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan (RMP, pp. 100).

Additional information is available in the Tyrrell Seed Orchard Caretaker Site

Development project analysis file. This file and documents referenced above are available for review at the Orchard.

II. ALTERNATIVES

A. PROPOSED ACTION: Develop Caretaker Site

A one-quarter acre area would be developed north of the Orchard office compound as a care taker home site. Engineering specifications would be based on the needs for a double-wide modular home. General excavation specifications for the project can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Excavation Details

Project	Excavation			Material Disposal
	Type	Specs	Approx. Trench Length (ft)	
Sewer Pipe	Trench	25-35" deep x 12" wide	150	Backfill with Excavated Material
Septic Drain Field	Trench	25-35" deep x 12" wide	450	Backfill with Excavated Material
1000 Gal. Septic Tank	Hole	108" deep x 96" wide		Backfill with Excavated Material
Water Line	Trench	27" deep x 12" wide	110	Backfill with Excavated Material
Electrical/Telephone	Trench	32" deep x 12" wide	450	Backfill with Excavated Material
Driveway/House Pad	Hole	9" deep (135 cu. yd.)		Stockpile in Section 15

A septic system, which would include excavation for a 1000 gallon holding tank and about 600 ft. of sewer/drain field trenching, would be incorporated into the site. The sewage disposal system would be installed in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 340, Division 71 – Department of Environmental Quality by a contractor/installer certified by Lane County, Oregon. The septic system would be designed for use by a single-family dwelling and would not be used for anything but the care taker site

Development would include about 450 ft. of excavation for electrical and telephone service. Water service would be provided from the existing Orchard well, requiring approximately 110 ft. of excavation for supply lines. All excavation work done to provide services to the site would be back-filled according to engineering specifications. In order to create a suitable driveway base and flat surface for the home site, nine inches of soil would be removed from the surface layer and filled with compacted gravel.

Approximately 135 cubic yards of soil would be excavated from the area for the driveway/gravel pad and stockpiled in Section 15 along Rd. 20-5-16 next to the Phase 2 area between Lorane and Tyee 2 seed production orchards; the material would be used to fill holes created by foraging wildlife in the seed production orchards, thereby mitigating a safety concern. A culvert would be placed under the driveway to maintain an existing ditch.

B. ALTERNATIVE A: No Action

The Tyrrell Seed Orchard would not develop a caretaker site. All other activities related to orchard management would continue as usual. Security considerations would be put at risk due to a lack of a 24-hour presence at the Orchard.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Orchard has been intensively managed, resulting in ecosystems comparable to agricultural landscapes. The affected environment is described in detail in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Integrated Pest Management at Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard (USDI Bureau of Land Management, 2003)(pp. 3-1 to 3-25), which is incorporated here by reference. The following resources either are not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action or any of alternatives: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, cultural resources, floodplains, prime or unique farmlands, Native American religious concerns, Wild and Scenic Rivers, wilderness, minority populations, and low income populations.

A. PROPOSED ACTION: Develop Caretaker Site. The project area is located on a ridge top approximately 800 feet from the nearest stream.

The greatest risk to water quality is the potential for runoff from excavation work. A densely vegetated buffer between the project area and a perennial stream makes it very unlikely that sediment from grading activities would enter the channel. Native straw bales would be on site in the event of unexpected rainfall to lessen the potential for sediment transport from the construction site. The straw bales would be aligned to divert runoff onto stable terrain with dense vegetation. Additionally, equipment operations would cease during periods of heavy rainfall. Native grass seed would be used to revegetate exposed soils after project completion. Waste soil would be stockpiled on a ridge in Section 15 approximately 500 feet from the nearest stream.

No stream crossings or other water features would be impacted under the Proposed Action. No impact is expected to aquatic habitat or aquatic organisms from development of a caretaker site.

Soils would be compacted and surface soils removed. One-quarter acre of productive forest land would be committed to the caretaker facility with a corresponding loss of productivity well into the future (multiple decades).

No botanical habitat or habitat for any forest wildlife species would be lost or negatively affected by development of the caretaker site. There is no threatened, endangered, or other Special Status botanical or wildlife species within the Orchard boundaries; therefore, there are no effects to these species from the proposed treatment.

The noise from the site development would be similar to that produced by daily activities around the Orchard office complex.

B. ALTERNATIVE A: No Action. This alternative would have no impact on the water, soil, fisheries, botany, or wildlife.

IV. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. Public Participation

This EA will be mailed to the following list:

Albert Goins, Lorane, OR
Bruce and Sharon Malcolm, Lorane, Or
Cadore Timber Co., Eugene, OR
Charles and Reida Kimmel, Eugene, OR
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, Coos Bay, OR
Craig and Cindy Royce, Lorane, OR
Craig Tupper, Eugene, OR
David Simone, Eugene, OR
Denise Ripellino, Noti, OR
Donald Wagner, Veneta, OR
Ira and Barbara Dare, Lorane, OR
James Johnston, Eugene, OR
Jan Wroncy, Eugene, OR
Jeffrey and Shelly Corl, Lorane, OR
John and Barbara Robinson, Lorane, OR
John Bianco, Creswell, Or
John Poynter, Lorane, OR
Kris and John Ward, Eugene, OR
Lane County Lands Department, Eugene, OR
Lane County Land Management, Eugene, OR
Margaret Miller, Harrisburg, OR
Mark and Joyce Gorham, Veneta, OR
National Marine Fisheries Service, Portland, OR
Neil and Nancy Miller, Eugene, Or
Norman and Sandra Maxwell, Lorane, OR
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Portland, OR
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Springfield, OR
Oregon Department of Forestry - Roseburg, OR
Oregon Department of Forestry - Western Lane District, Veneta, OR
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Salem, OR
Oregon Natural Resource Council, Eugene, OR
Oregonians for Food and Shelter, Salem, OR
Pacific Rivers Council, Eugene Or.
Pam Chenoweth, Lorane, OR
Pam Hewitt, Marcola, OR
Ronald and Marla Norton, Lorane, OR
Sandra Rhodes, Lorane, OR
Sierra Club - Many Rivers Group, Eugene, OR

Weyerhaeuser Co., Federal Way, WA
Mary Seereiter, Lorane, OR

C. List of Preparers

The Proposed Action and alternatives were developed and analyzed by the following interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists:

Dan Crannell	Wildlife and Threatened and Endangered Species
Mary D'Aversa	Hydrology
Mark D'Aversa	Fisheries
Nancy Brian	Botany
Rudy Wiedenbeck	Soils
Glenn Miller	Seed Orchard Manager
Michael Crawford	Forester (Author)

VI. FIGURES

This section contains figures referred to throughout the document. The following figures are included:

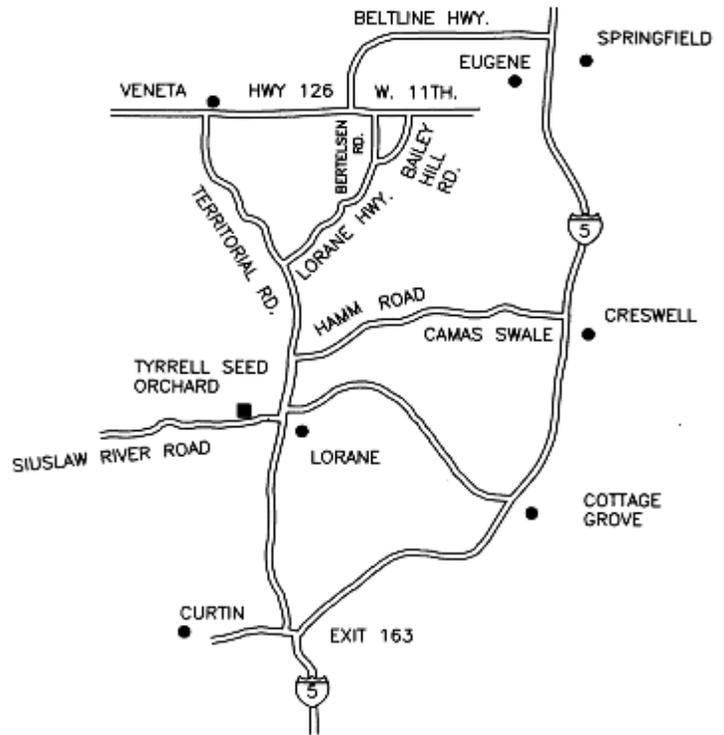
- Figure 1 Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Vicinity Map

- Figure 2 Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Detailed Caretaker Site Development -
Proposed Action

Figure 1: TRAVIS TYRRELL SEED ORCHARD VICINITY MAP

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District
Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard
26350 Siuslaw River Road
P.O. Box 121
Lorane, Oregon 97451

Telephone: (541) 683-6445
FAX: (541) 683-6597



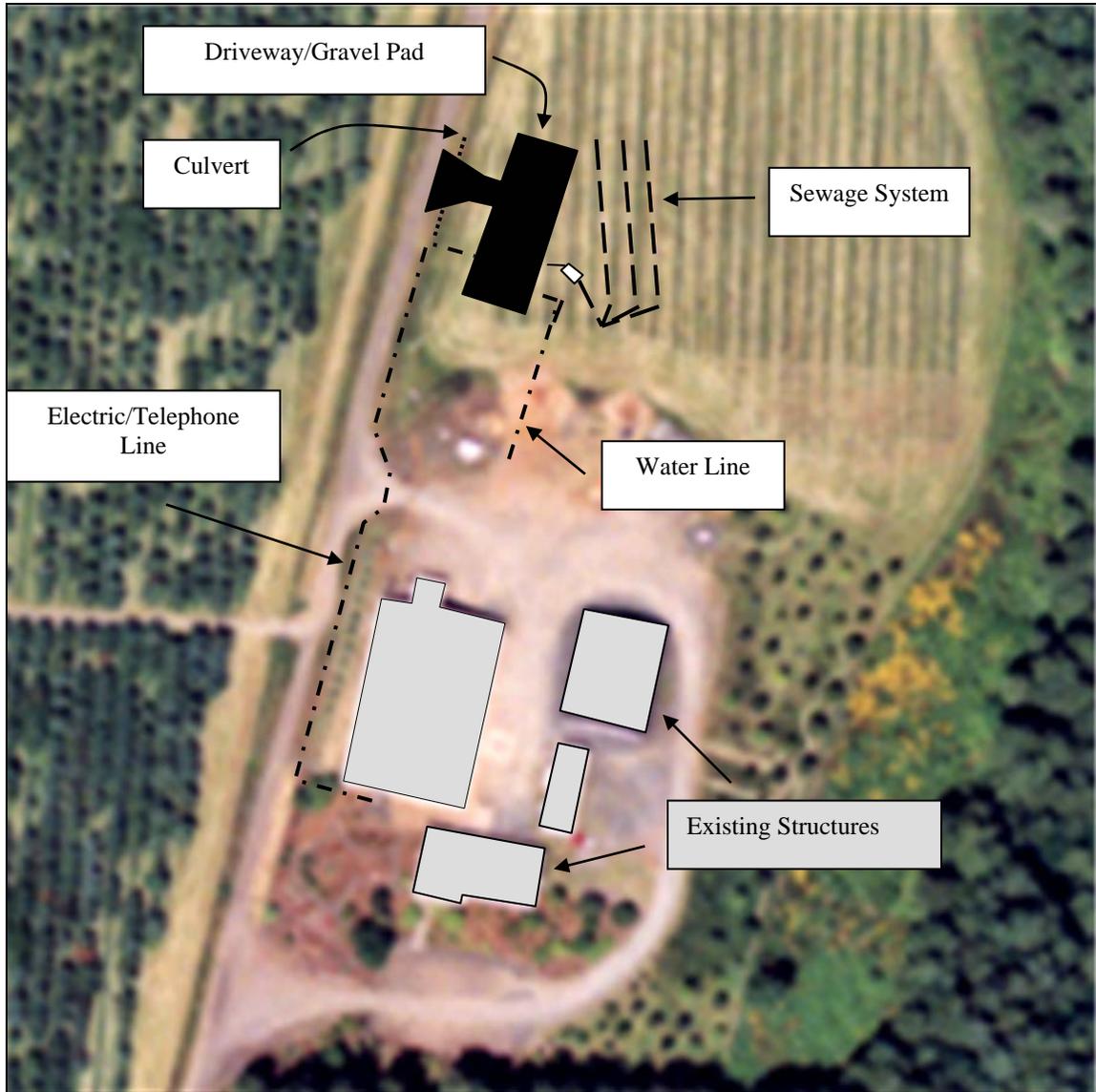
From Eugene: Take West 11th and turn south on Bertelsen (which turns into Bailey Hill Road and then Lorane Highway) and proceed 12.5 miles. Turn left on Territorial Road and continue for 6 miles to Lorane. Turn right onto Siuslaw Road and travel 3 miles to orchard, which is on the right.

From I-5 North: Turn off I-5 at Creswell Exit 182 and turn right. Travel west 10.5 miles through Creswell to Camas Swale Road, which turns into Hamm Road. Turn left on Territorial Road and continue 5.5 miles to Lorane. Turn right onto Siuslaw Road and travel 3 miles to orchard, which is on the right.

From I-5 South: Turn off I-5 at Curtin Exit 163. Turn right and travel 1 mile. Turn right at Lorane sign and go 9 miles to Lorane. Turn left onto Siuslaw Road and travel 3 miles to orchard, which is on the right.

From Cottage Grove: Proceed west on Main Street. This will turn into Cottage Grove-Lorane Highway. Go 12.5 miles. Turn left in Lorane onto Territorial Road. After approximately 300 feet turn right onto Siuslaw Road and go 3 miles to the orchard, which is on the right.

**Figure 2 – Detailed Caretaker Site Development
Potential Excavation for Development of Orchard Caretaker Site
Proposed Action**



PRELIMINARY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

for

Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Caretaker Site Development

Environmental Assessment No. EA-04-14

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
Eugene District

The Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has analyzed a proposal for development of a one-quarter acre area for a caretaker site at the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard in an environmental assessment (EA-04-14). The Tyrrell Seed Orchard is a centralized tree seed orchard designed to provide genetically improved Douglas-fir seed for BLM's Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eugene districts and for nine private timber and seed companies. The purpose of the action is to develop a home site to accommodate a caretaker's travel trailer or manufactured home. The Orchard is a remote and extensive site with considerable BLM investment in facilities, equipment and materials and a permanent on-site presence is needed to reduce the potential for vandalism and theft. The EA considered a Proposed Action (Develop Caretaker Site), and the No Action Alternative.

A summary of the environmental effects (as discussed in the EA) follows:

- The Proposed Action would have no significant impacts on the social and economic environment in the region or the locality.
- The EA analysis did not identify any impacts of the Proposed Action on public health and safety.
- There are no unique characteristics, such as floodplains, prime or unique farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers within the project area.
- Impacts on the quality of the human environment would not be highly controversial.
- There are no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks involved.

- The Proposed Action would involve only a single site development project and would not establish any precedent for future action.
- The EA analysis considered the impacts of the proposed action and did not identify any cumulative effects of the action when considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.
- There are no known cultural resources within the project area.
- The EA analysis showed that the potential for environmental problems occurring with the Proposed Action was minimal. The EA analysis also concluded that the Proposed Action would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species.
- This action has no adverse energy impact, as outlined in the President’s National Energy Policy (Executive Order 13212).
- The Proposed Action would not violate Federal, State, and local law requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Determination:

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Eugene District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (November 1994), and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an EIS or a supplement to the existing EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Approved by: _____ Date _____
 Julia Dougan
 Eugene District Manager