DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

for

Tioga Sports Park

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential effects of the proposal by the Tioga Sports Park Association (TSPA) to construct and operate the Tioga Sports Park (TSP). The TSP is a small arms training facility proposed to be constructed near Bandon, Oregon in Coos County. The proposal includes the construction and operation of small arms firing ranges, archery range, a training/office building, parking areas, walking paths, and installation of required utilities on approximately 120 acres. The TSP would be used by local law enforcement, TSPA members, youth programs, and the general public. The TSPA also would provide hunter education and firearms safety classes. Construction of the range would facilitate the establishment of youth programs for hunters' safety and related outdoor educational programs and provide a service that is currently unavailable to the local Coos County population.

The TSPA would be funded, in part, by a Public Resource Grant from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The Public Resources Grant is funded, in part, by Hunter Education Program funds distributed and administered by USFWS. Funds have also been provided by the Tioga Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association. Future funding sources for operation and maintenance may include range fees, membership dues, and fundraising event proceeds. Construction is contingent on funding and approvals. Since federal money will partially fund construction of the TSP, it is a Federal action that requires review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, a small arms range would be constructed on land owned by Coos County in Bandon, Oregon, to provide small arms training and recreational facilities for residents of Coos County and surrounding communities. The TSP would provide public safety and recreational firearms training facilities for local law enforcement, TSPA members, youth programs, and the general public. The TSP would include two known distance ranges (a 600- and 100-yard range) a tactical range consisting of multiple shooting bays, allowing for changing the range configuration dependent on range use, and a law enforcement range. Each range would include earthen berm backstops with bullet traps to capture bullets fired on all ranges, firing line enclosures, and vegetation buffers to provide a visual block and aesthetic benefits. Berms would be kept vegetated to prevent erosion and sediment migration.

In addition to the firing ranges, the TSP would include a training/office building, fencing and gates, an access road, parking areas, and landscaping. The training/office building would be approximately 4,000 square feet and would be designed in accordance with the Coos County Development Code Chapter III Supplemental Provisions: Structures, Uses, Lots, and Yards. Fences would be installed to prevent access to the ranges, except through designated gates. Inaccessible terrain may also serve to limit unauthorized access if perimeter fencing is not feasible. Access to the TSP would be provided by modifying an existing road used to access Coos County managed

land, off of US Highway 101. Parking areas would be constructed in accordance with Coos County Development Code Chapter 10 for Off-street Parking and to provide accessibility to individuals with various degrees of disabilities. Designated disabled parking areas would be clearly labeled and well graded or paved. Walkways would be constructed to provide access between and across ranges and facilities. Walkways would be constructed on non-slip surfaces, such as crushed stone, asphalt, or concrete. Handicap ramps and slopes would be constructed at walkways to provide access for handicapped facility users, as defined by Coos County.

A Safety Plan will be completed for the TSP to describe administrative rules and regulations for facility operation. Specific standards would be determined for range schedules, parking, guest policies, member and user responsibilities, hours of operation, security, programs, and range supervision and enforcement. Safety and noise requirements would be determined for the facility, in accordance with local land use regulations, local law enforcement policy, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements. An Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) has been completed in accordance with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publication *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (EPA 2005). Best management practices (BMPs) were selected specifically for site conditions at the TSP and include: vegetative cover, optimal soil pH to minimize lead migration, erosion and sediment controls, and stormwater management.

Other Alternatives Analyzed

USFWS analyzed one other alternative to the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the TSPA would not construct and operate the TSP. Training and recreational areas for local law enforcement agencies, shooting sports clubs and associations, and the general public would be unavailable in Coos County. Regional hunter education needs may also remain unmet. Recreational shooting in informal locations would likely continue, raising safety issues from unintended targets, lack of safety training, uncontrolled shooting, and shooting-related debris left at various locations.

Expected Environmental, Social, and Economic Effects

The EA for the Tioga Sports Park included a detailed analysis of the following resources:

- Fish, Wildlife, and Plants
- Wetlands
- Water Quality, Water Resources, and Floodplains
- Historical, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources
- Noise
- Land Use
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

The impact assessment for each of the resources analyzed in detail is summarized below for the Proposed Action Alternative.

Fish, Wildlife, and Plants

Impacts to fish were analyzed based on the potential for the Proposed Action to impact fish habitat from sedimentation and turbidity, accidental oil and fuel spills, and pollution from stormwater runoff. These potential impacts to fish would be low due to the erosion and sediment control that would be implemented during construction, the implementation of spill prevention plan including setbacks from water bodies for fueling and staging areas, and a stormwater management swale to prevent pollution entering water bodies from stormwater runoff.

Impacts to wildlife were analyzed based on the potential for the Proposed Action to result in habitat loss/modification, noise disturbance, disruption of wildlife movement, alteration of foraging behavior, spread of noxious weeds, and incidental mortality. Effects from noise would be low because the site is already subjected to levels of human activity and noise from the nearby roads and the Beaver Hill Disposal Site. The threat of incidental mortality to most species would be limited to the duration of construction and those small areas where ground disturbance occurs. Wildlife would likely avoid the immediate construction area and use alternative routes, resulting in a temporary disruption of local wildlife movement by the Proposed Action. In the long term, wildlife would continue to use the TSP and surrounding area for breeding, foraging, and dispersal. There is no suitable habitat for federally threatened, endangered, and candidate wildlife species or State-listed species at the TSP site.

Impacts to vegetation were analyzed based on the amount of vegetation removed and potential invasion by noxious weeds. Construction of the Proposed Action would result in 3.2 acres of permanent impacts associated with long-term loss of vegetation, and 14.7 acres of temporary removal of vegetation in the proposed TSP lease area. Vegetation removal would primarily occur in previously disturbed areas and would not result in a loss of mature trees or federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species or state-listed species. TSPA would annually maintain vegetation including control of noxious weeds and would seed all ranges and berms with native vegetation to prevent noxious weed proliferation.

Impacts to fish and wildlife would be less than significant due to the small area affected, temporary nature of most impacts, BMPs that would be implemented, and lack of federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species or State-listed species in the area.

Wetlands

Impacts to wetlands were analyzed based on the amount of work in wetlands and the associated loss of wetland function. The Proposed Action would impact approximately 28,457 square feet (0.7 acre) of wetlands. To minimize impacts to wetlands, construction would be performed during the dry season to minimize rutting and disturbing wetlands and vegetation. ODFW will prepare a wetland mitigation plan to be approved as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit application. The plan will be used to compensate for the loss of wetlands and wetland function such that impacts to wetlands would be less than significant.

Water Resources

Impacts to water resources were analyzed based on the pollution contribution to receiving waterbodies and changes to stream hydrology from increased runoff. The Proposed Action would only involve 0.1 acres of impervious surface, and 3.1 acres of graveled surface. Due to the BMPs that would be implemented (erosion and sediment control and stormwater swale), and the infiltration capability of on-site soils, impacts to stormwater runoff and associated water quality of receiving streams would be low. Additionally, no trees providing shade to waterbodies would be removed, so there would not be an effect to in-stream temperature from the Proposed Action. Impacts to water quality would be less than significant, due to the small amount of disturbance and BMPs that would be implemented.

Historical, Archeological, and Cultural Resources

No historic, archaeological, or cultural resources are known to be present in the TSP lease area; therefore, the Proposed Action would have no effect on historic, archaeological, or cultural resources.

Noise

Impacts to noise were analyzed based on changes to noise levels and exceedance of DEQ noise levels. The noise analysis indicated that the maximum allowable noise level regulated by DEQ could be exceeded at two nearby residences. Actual sound levels would be lower due to sound-reducing features that would be included as part of the Proposed Action, including three-sided shooting sheds, which would contain rifle and pistol shooters and earthen berms approximately 10 feet tall. Due to the small number of sensitive receptors and the sound-reducing measures that would be implemented, noise impacts would be less than significant.

Land Use

Impacts to land use were analyzed based on consistency with land use designations. Construction and operation of the TSP would be consistent with the Concession Agreement held with the County. Construction and operation of the TSP would not affect the ability of the adjacent parcels to be used for Industrial and County Forest uses, per their prescribed zoning; therefore, impacts to land use would be less than significant.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

The area has a minority population below the state average and low-income population close to the state average so there would be no disproportionate adverse effect to environmental justice populations. Impacts to socioeconomics could include minor temporary increase in jobs and minor increase in firearm and ammunition sales, which would be low and beneficial. Due to the lack of environmental justice populations, and that impacts to socioeconomics would be low and beneficial, impacts to socioeconomics and environmental justice would be less than significant.

Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

Impacts to hazardous materials and solid waste were analyzed based on the likelihood for hazardous materials to be released to the environment and disturbance of known contaminated areas. Construction BMPs would be employed at the site to avoid and minimize oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, and fuel spills or leaks from construction equipment. The ESP would be followed which includes BMPs to prevent lead migration associated with small arms range use. Due to the BMPs that would be implemented to prevent and minimize release of hazardous materials and waste into the environment, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Measures

Measures would be implemented at the TSP to mitigate, minimize, and avoid impacts to the human environment. Temporary erosion control measures and a permanent stormwater treatment swale would be constructed to minimize pollutants from entering water bodies during construction and operation of the TSP, thereby protecting water quality. Impacts to wetlands would be mitigated according to a Wetland Mitigation Plan that is pending approval by the USACE. The ESP developed for the TSP would be followed which includes BMPs that were selected specifically for site conditions at the TSP apply to range design, operation, and maintenance and cover the following (AECOM 2015):

- **Vegetative Cover** – Vegetative cover will be maintained on berms and bay floors to prevent erosion and transport of sediment and lead in stormwater runoff.
- **Optimal Soil pH** - The optimal soil pH for minimizing lead solubility and preventing the migration of lead through the soil column into underlying groundwater is above 6.5. Soil pH samples would be taken as part of ESP development, and lime will be used to treat soils if they are below (more acidic) than the optimal pH level per EPA guidelines.
- **Erosion and Sediment Controls** - Erosion and sediment control BMPs will be implemented during all construction or maintenance projects that involve ground disturbance. The purpose of the erosion and sediment control BMPs is to prevent erosion of material potentially containing lead.
- **Stormwater Management** –Engineered stormwater drainage swales will be constructed to prevent stormwater damage to adjacent properties. The drainage swales will receive stormwater runoff from the ranges and remove stormwater pollutants through filtration from vegetation and infiltration.
- **Noise Barriers** - Three-sided shooting sheds, which would contain rifle and pistol shooters and earthen berms approximately 10 feet tall, would reduce noise levels emitted from the TSP.

Significant Effects on the Human Environment

No significant adverse effects to the human environment are expected as a result of the Proposed Action. The majority of the impacts would be of low intensity, as described above. Project design features and the ESP would maintain impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Coordination with Interested or Affected Parties

USFWS performed external scoping and public outreach including print, radio, and email communication. USFWS and ODFW conducted a 30-day public comment period from November 18, 2014 through December 18, 2014. Comments were accepted via the website, e-mail, and mail. A total of six (6) public comments were received within the comment period. USFWS and ODFW are coordinating with the Oregon Division of State Lands and USACE to develop a Wetland Mitigation Plan.

Determination

For the reasons presented above and the analysis provided in the Tioga Sports Park EA (USFWS 2016), it is the Service's determination that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment under the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended). As such, an environmental impact statement is not required. An environmental assessment has been prepared in support of this finding and is available upon request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232.

References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2016. Tioga Sports Park Environmental Assessment.

AECOM. 2015. Environmental Stewardship Plan, Tioga Sports Park Public Gun Range and Training Facility.

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Acting Chief — Date

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program