

**Environmental Assessment for the Ni-les'tun
Unit of the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife
Refuge Wetland Restoration and North Bank
Lane Improvement Project**

Addendum for Response to Comments

June 2009

Prepared by:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

and

Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Prepared pursuant to:

42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c) and 49 U.S.C. 303

Response to Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division (FHWA), announced the availability of the draft EA on April 23, 2009. The Notice of Availability and the EA was posted on the USFWS and FHWA websites and was published in the Coos Bay *The World* newspaper and the Bandon *Western World* newspaper on April 23, 2009. Additionally, 39 copies of the draft EA were mailed to landowners and agencies and 105 postcards announcing the availability of these documents for review and soliciting comments were sent to other interested parties.

A formal 21-day public comment period was held from April 23 through May 13, 2009. During this period public and agency comments on the draft EA were accepted. Nine comments were received; these comments are paraphrased and the responses to the comments in respect to this EA are summarized in Table 1. A limited number of editorial comments were made in regards to the draft EA document. None of the public comments impacted the analysis or conclusions of the EA. The editorial comments were incorporated directly into the draft EA where insertions are noted with a double underline and deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Table 1. Comments and Responses

Comment Author	Summarized and/or Paraphrased Comment	Response to Comment
Bilderback, D. and D.	Expressed support for project	No response required.
	Expressed support for project	No response required.
Binnewies, B.	If future public meetings are held, suggest a diagram of estuarine food chain	There will not be any further public meetings held as part of the EA, however the comment will be considered during future Refuge planning efforts.
Byram, S.	Expressed support for project	No response required.
Fischer, B.	Expressed support for project	No response required.
Griffin, D. (SHPO)	Requested more information	Provided in letter to SHPO on May 5, 2009
Owens, A.	Money allocated for the Bandon Marsh Project could have been better spent on other things, especially at this time when economy is down, schools are lacking funds, the County cannot fund a good sheriff's department. etc.	Funding of suggested projects is outside of USFWS and FHWA jurisdiction and is beyond the scope of this EA. In addition, most of the programs mentioned in the comment are locally-funded efforts. The money for the proposed project is allocated from the federal budget process, independent of local budgets.
	Petitions USFWS to take into consideration the needs of wildlife photographers and build a couple of blinds.	Land use that the commenter is petitioning will be evaluated and addressed in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan to be developed by USFWS and scheduled for completion in 2012. As discussed in the EA, this process will

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Comment Author	Summarized and/or Paraphrased Comment	Response to Comment
		address public use of the Refuge.
Quarterman, P.	Expressed support for project	No response required.
	Expressed support for project	No response required.
Russell, B.	Disagrees that the benefit is less than significant; benefits will be significant both in the long- and short-term	The NEPA criteria for significance, (40 CFR 1508.27), the Department of Interior's implementing regulations, 43 CFR 200 through 450, provide guidance on determining whether an effect, even a beneficial one, is considered significant. Based on these criteria, the USFWS in cooperation with the FHWA, determined that the beneficial effects would be less than significant in the context of historical and continuing loss and degradation of resources along the lower Coquille River watershed.
Scorby, G.	Historical names in the document are not shown. Redd Creek = Muddy Creek, Blue Barn Creek = Clear Creek, Fahys Creek = Mill Creek	The official names from the US Geological Survey database are those used in the document. However, the EA was revised to include historic names of creeks as noted in the comment.