

NOAA Restoration Center NEPA Inclusion Analysis

Award Number

I. IDENTIFYING PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name 68th Street Dump Superfund Alternative Site – Draft Restoration Plan	Project State MD
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Project Proponent / Applicant USWFS, NOAA, MDDNR, MDE - "Trustees"	Project Contact Rich Takacs, NOAA Restoration Center
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II. OTHER FEDERAL PARTNERS AND LEVEL OF NEPA ANALYSIS

Has another Federal agency completed NEPA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is NOAA the lead federal agency for this NEPA analysis?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES FOR ANALYSIS

Please check one of the following conditions:

- I am analyzing impacts of project planning and design activities, in order to gather all required project information
- I have all information needed to complete the final analysis of impacts for the entire project

Has a NEPA review been conducted for prior project activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Date of NEPA completion for prior phase
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	N/A

Describe the full scope of the project, including historic/ geographic/ ecological context, the type of restoration, and how it will be conducted.

The proposed project will restore natural resources injured from exposure to hazardous substances from the 68th Street Dump Superfund Alternative Site. The Belt Woods forest restoration project includes assessment of natural resources and planning, control of non-native invasive species, release thinning in a decades old reforestation site, removal of debilitated structures and reforestation, quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) with long term monitoring and maintenance; and will be consistent with the goals of the MDDNR Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for Belt Woods. The SMP includes conservation and management to maintain the property in its natural state with an emphasis on scientific study, educational programs and natural resource management/restoration activities. Public access will be permitted, but will be limited to passive uses. The Belt Woods Natural Environment Area is a 625-acre natural area managed by the Maryland Park Service in Prince George's County, Maryland. The Belt Woods reforestation project would restore 109 acres of native hardwood forest within the greater 625-acre Belt Woods Natural Environment Area. The project will be beneficial to multiple wildlife species, provide ecological benefits to migratory birds, reduce forest fragmentation and improve forest condition, and help maintain one of the last stands of old-growth hardwoods on the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

Describe the proposed action (i.e. the portion of the project that NOAA is funding/approving).

The proposed action entails the application of herbicides to remove competing and non-native plant species as part of restoration activities associated with the Belt Wood reforestation project. Herbicide use (and mechanical/physical removal) on non-native species will be conducted as part of release thinning efforts on approximately 106 acres of previously reforested fields, and on 3 acres for site preparation prior to reforestation planting efforts. Herbicide use will be restricted to activities conducted in accordance with approved application methods and best management practices to prevent exposure to non-target areas and organisms. Thinning and removal of invasive plants will reduce competition and assist in the continued restoration of the forest in this tract. Post-restoration maintenance efforts may also include application of herbicides for invasive species control. Given the proximity of Belt Woods to tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay, the presence of non-tidal wetlands and blue-line streams, and other environmentally sensitive areas throughout Belt Woods, it is anticipated that herbicide formulations such as glyphosate and triclopyr labeled for aquatic use (e.g., Rodeo and Garlon 3A, respectively) will be utilized.

Check the types of activities being conducted in this project:

Technical Assistance		
<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education Classes, Programs, Centers, Partnerships and Materials; Training Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning, Feasibility Studies, Design Engineering, and Permitting		
Riverine and Coastal Habitat Restoration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach and Dune Restoration		

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<input type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Restoration and Erosion Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation and Stream Diversion
<input type="checkbox"/> Dam and Culvert Removal & Replacement	<input type="checkbox"/> Coral Reef Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Levee & Culvert Removal, Modification, Set-back
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical and Nature-like Fishways	<input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish Reef Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Fringing Marsh and Shoreline Stabilization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Reef Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Removal
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Burns/Forest Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Road Upgrading/Decommissioning; Trail Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment/Materials Placement
<input type="checkbox"/> Species Enhancement	<input type="checkbox"/> Signage and Access Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> Channel Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> SAV Restoration	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine Algae Restoration	

Conservation Transactions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Transactions	<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Conservation Banking

IV. PROJECT IMPACT ANALYSIS

Core Questions

1. Are the activities to be carried out under this project fully described in Section 2.2 of the NOAA RC PEIS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Are the specific impacts that are likely to result from this project fully described in Section 4.5.2 of the NOAA RC PEIS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Does the level of adverse impact for the project exceed that described in Table 11 of the NOAA RC PEIS for any resource, including significant adverse impact?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. Describe the project impacts to resources (including beneficial impacts) and any mitigating measures being implemented.
 Herbicide use for the control of invasive plants could cause direct, short-term, moderate, adverse impacts to geology and soils, water, air, threatened and endangered species, and land use and recreation. These impacts would result from the potential for lethal effects on soil biota and the short-term loss of shading and habitat for prey species provided by the invasive plant. The potential impacts to birds, aquatic organisms, and terrestrial organisms will be mitigated by the use of the least toxic herbicides, surfactants, and spray pattern indicators available, but sub-lethal impacts are possible. To further minimize adverse impacts, use of herbicides in project areas would be conducted according to established protocols for the locality, as determined by a licensed herbicide applicator. Such protocols would include information and guidelines for appropriate chemical to be used, timing, amounts, application methods, and safety procedures relevant to the herbicide application. Long-term moderate to major beneficial impacts to geology and soils, water resources, coastal and marine resources, and EFH and threatened and endangered species would result as non-native species are replaced by diverse native plant and animal communities.

5. Describe any potential cumulative impacts that may result from past, present or reasonably foreseeable future actions (beneficial or adverse).
 Cumulative project impacts would not be significant or occur at a regional scale, and are consistent with those described in the RC PEIS. Overall, any adverse impacts are likely to be short-term and localized, and only minor to moderate when they do occur. Because the overall project is restoring natural habitat structure and function, it should lead to overall longer-term minor to moderate beneficial impacts on the resources (geology and soils, water resources, coastal and marine resources and EFH, and threatened and endangered species) of the Belt Woods reforestation project area.

6. Describe the public outreach and/or opportunities for public comment that have taken place to this point. Are any future opportunities for public input anticipated?
 The Trustees have maintained records documenting the information considered and actions taken during the 68th Street Site NRDA process. These records are available to the public on the 68th Street Dump NRDAR website and at the USFWS Virginia Field Office. A Draft Restoration Plan, including this draft Inclusion Analysis, will be made available to the public for review and comment. All comments on the Draft Restoration Plan and Inclusion Analysis will be addressed prior to finalization and approval of the Restoration Plan. If, after the public comment period, and review of any additional information, it is determined that no substantive changes are needed to the Draft Restoration Plan and draft Inclusion Analysis, the Trustees will not be preparing any further NEPA analysis or seeking a FONSI or ROD for the proposed restoration actions.

7. Have any public comments raised issues of scientific/environmental controversy? Please describe.
 There have been no public comments to date identifying issues of scientific and environmental controversy. All comments on the Draft Restoration Plan and Inclusion Analysis will be addressed prior to finalization and approval of the Restoration Plan.

8. Describe the most common positive and negative public comments on issues other than scientific controversy described above in Question 7.
 Any common positive and negative public comments received on the Draft Restoration Plan and this draft Inclusion Analysis will be addressed and summarized in the Final Restoration Plan.

Core Questions (continued)

V. NEPA DETERMINATION

The action is completely covered by the impact analysis within the NOAA RC Programmatic EIS (PEIS). The project and its potential impacts may be limited through terms or conditions placed on the recipient of NOAA funds. It requires no further environmental review. An EIS Inclusion Document will be prepared.

The action analyzed here has unknown impacts. At this time, funding will be limited to those portions of the action and impacts analyzed in the PEIS. These limitations will be described in terms or conditions placed on the recipient of NOAA funds. If all remaining activities and impacts are later determined to be described in the PEIS, this analysis will be documented in the program record and the applicant may then proceed with the project. If all remaining activities and impacts are later determined to not be described in the PEIS, further NEPA review will be required; see below.

The action or its impacts are not covered by the analysis within the PEIS. It will require preparation of an individual EA, a supplemental EIS, adoption of another agency's EA or EIS, or will be covered by a Categorical Exclusion.

Signature

DRAFT

Date Signed