



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Reply To File Number:

Project Name: Coastal meadow restoration for Oregon Silverspot Butterfly at Olympic Willapa State Wildlife Area

Memorandum

To: File –Coastal Program, FY 2023, Coastal meadow restoration for Oregon Silverspot Butterfly at Olympic Willapa State Wildlife Area, Pacific County, Washington

From: F Teal Waterstrat, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, WA Ecological Services Office, Washington

Subject: Determination of No Effects to Endangered Species for the Coastal meadow restoration for Oregon Silverspot Butterfly at Olympic Willapa State Wildlife Area

This memorandum has been prepared to document that the following project will have no effect on USFWS listed species. Impacts to NMFS listed species are being not evaluated due to the wholly upland nature of this project

Project Description:

- Quantify footprint of activity: 7-acres upland
- Quantify area adversely affected by activity: 0
- Quantify area restored by restoration activity: 7-acres upland
- Project start date: 10/01/2023 Project end date: 09/30/2026
- Total number of days for project implementation: undetermined
- Total number of days for project implementation above ambient noise: 0
- Ambient noise beginning on NA & NA Ending on or before: NA

Project description:

The goal of this Coastal meadow restoration project for Oregon Silverspot Butterfly (*Speyeria zerene hippolyta*) at the Olympic Willapa State Wildlife Area (Figure 1) is to improve and expand habitat conditions for Oregon Silverspot butterfly by removing non-desirable vegetation through mowing, pulling, chemical treatment, or cutting (for woody vegetation). There is also the potential for shallow discing/tilling of limited areas (<7 acres). We propose to plant native plant plugs and seeds, and monitor vegetation that support all lifestages of the Oregon Silverspot butterfly. We anticipate conducting at

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least one likely multiple small, prescribed burns.



Figure 1: "Milepost 6" site located in Pacific County Washington on the Longbeach Peninsula. Project site is at the intersection of Hwy 103 and 158th place between Oceanside and Kilpsan Beach. Area outlined in red will be managed for invasive species and restored with native plant species that support Sliverspot life history requirements.

The project is entirely upland without any areas of standing water at any time of year and will not impact any aquatic species, including all NMFS/NOAA listed species (Figure 2). Therefore the project is expected to have No Effect on NMFS/NOAA species and EFH areas.

No known USFWS ESA listed species have been documented in the stabilized dune or shorepine and Sitka spruce shrub forest that surrounds the meadows to date (Figure 2). Additionally the habitat is not suitable for occupancy for listed avian species. Marbled murrelets may occasionally fly over the Long Beach Peninsula, but there is no nesting habitat on site and the activities such as applying herbicide, pulling weeds, and planting plugs are of very low disturbance and limited to the upland area. These proposed restoration activities are below baseline the existing auditory disturbances of traffic along the Hwy, adjacent land owner actives including lawn maintenance and pets. The project is therefore dismissible and expected to have No Effect USFWS ESA Species



Figure 2: Upland stabilized dune meadow without standing water or suitable habitat for murrelets, horned larks, Cuckoos, or snowy plovers.

The overall goal of this project is to improve habitat conditions and plant resource abundance to the point at which the ESA listed Oregon Silverspot Butterfly could be released and thrive in the meadow. Additional benefits include restoration of rare Washington Dune-meadow ecosystem types, native flora, and resources for coastal pollinators. Should Oregon Silverspots be available for release before the project is complete we will initiate ESA consultation for this project immediately

Listed and candidate Species	Measures Implemented	Effect Determination
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Report any observations and cease work	NE
Streaked Horned Lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>)	Report any observations and cease work	NE
Western Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>)	None	NE
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	Report any observations and cease work	NE
Oregon Silverspot Butterfly (<i>Speyeria zerene hippolyta</i>)	Report any observations and cease work	NE

Project Biologist Signature and Date

Supervisor's Signature and Date
