



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

Web Address: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay> E-mail: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303



1792 (OR-120)
EA OR125-08-04

April 4, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Attached is the Decision Record for the Right-of-way for the Staging Area for the New Carissa Wreck Removal Project Environmental Assessment (EA No. OR-125-08-04). The general public was informed of the EA and FONSI through a letter to those on the District's mailing list (3/11/08) and a published Legal Notice in The World newspaper (3/15/08). The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project was signed on March 11, 2008, with the public comment period ending on March 31, 2008.

The decision has been made to proceed with Alternative 2 of EA OR125-08-04, which analyzed the environmental effects of development of a shoreline staging area and access to the staging area over BLM roads for the New Carissa Wreck Removal Project. The Decision Record is open to appeal procedures as detailed at 43 CFR Part 4 Subpart E – Special Rules Applicable to Public Land Hearings and Appeals (Administrative Remedies). Appeals of this action must be filed within 30 days after publication of a Notice of Decision for this EA. Please direct requests for copies of the EA, questions, or comments to Coos Bay District BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459-2000, ATTN: Linda Petterson, call (541) 756-0100, FAX (541) 751-4303; or e-mail to OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov, ATTN: Linda Petterson.

Sincerely,

A. Dennis Turowski

A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

Attachment:

Decision Record (3 pp)



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EA No. OR125-08-04

Decision Documentation For Right-of-way for Staging Area for the New Carissa Wreck Removal Project

Background:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) (EA No. OR125-08-04) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a right-of-way was prepared by the Umpqua Field Office, Coos Bay District Office of the Bureau of Land Management, using input from Field Office and District resource staff. The proposal is a temporary right-of-way grant to Titan Maritime LLC (Titan) for development of a shoreline staging area and access to the staging area over BLM roads for the New Carissa Wreck Removal Project. The EA analyzed a No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives.

The Right-of-way for Staging Area for the New Carissa Wreck Removal Project EA (OR125-08-04) is tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI BLM 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (USDI BLM 1995) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan [NFP])* (USDA/USDI 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994a) as supplemented and amended by:

- *The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (USDA/USDI 2004) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 2004a).
- *Management of Port-Orford-cedar in Southwest Oregon Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (USDA/USDI 2004b) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 2004c).
- *The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl Proposal To Amend Wording About the Aquatic Conservation Strategy* (USDA/USDI 2003) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 2004d).

This EA is also tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay Integrated Noxious Weed Program* (EA OR 120-97-11).

The public was informed of the EA and FONSI through a letter (3/11/08) and a published Legal Notice in The World newspaper (3/15/08). Two public responses were received:

1. Comment: We do not support the New Carissa removal project. The North Spit is a valuable natural environment and any disturbance, however temporary, is destructive of habitat and scenic beauty.

Response: The issue of whether to remove the wreckage is outside the scope of this document. The commenter provided no evidence that the proposed action would have a significant impact or any impacts beyond those already fully analyzed in the EA.

2. Comment: BLM should submit an E.I.S. which includes a project plan that optimizes the removal of European beach grass and associated fore dunes in the project area, with an eye to restoring a bit of the historic upper beach habitat required by species such as the Snowy Plover, the pink-flowered sand verbena.

Response: The commenter provided no evidence supporting the need to prepare an EIS, moreover, as part of the proposed project, European beach grass will be removed, piled and burned to construct the staging area. Upon completion of the removal project, the site will be restored by re-grading to pre-construction conditions and seeding with a native seed mix. It is beyond the scope of the EA to analyze additional restoration projects.

After full consideration of all comments received, I have determined that there were not any issues raised by any of the public respondents that warrant a revision to the EA, and the FONSI is still appropriate.

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Alternative 2 of EA OR125-08-04, which analyzed the environmental effects of development of a shoreline staging area and access to the staging area over BLM roads for the New Carissa Wreck Removal Project. The project is located in T. 25 S., R. 13 W., Section 7 and T. 25 S., R. 14 W., Section 13, Willamette Meridian, Oregon.

Rationale:

Implementing the Alternative 2 will best meet the purposes of the proposed project. Granting the temporary right-of-way will allow the applicant to remove the New Carissa wreckage with minimal impacts to recreation. The Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion concluded the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the western snowy plover, marbled murrelet, and brown pelican nor destroy or adversely modify western snowy plover critical habitat.

The decision is consistent with the ROD for the *Northwest Forest Plan and the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and its Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM, 1995)*, as supplemented and amended.

Administrative Remedies:

The Decision Record is open to Appeal procedures as detailed at 43 CFR Part 4 Subpart E – Special Rules Applicable to Public Land Hearings and Appeals. Appeals of this action must be filed within 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability for this Decision.

Decision Recommended by:

NRSA: Linda Petterson (Acting) Date: 4/4/2008

NRSA: Nancy Zepf (Acting) Date: 4/4/2008

Decision Approved by:
Umpqua Field Manager: A. Dennis Turowski Date: 4/4/2008