

Environmental Assessment #OR-014-08-03

PROJECT TITLE/TYPE: Gerber South Boat Ramp Improvements

PROJECT LOCATION: T. 39 S., R 13 E., Sec.12, NE ¼ (see attached location map)

BLM OFFICE: Klamath Falls Resource Area, Lakeview District

LEASE/SERIAL/CASE FILE N/A

APPLICANT (if any): N/A

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Need for Action

This project will serve to maintain and enhance the existing recreation facilities and opportunities available at Gerber Recreation area. The proposed action would replace the South Gerber concrete boat ramp, which was removed approximately eighteen years ago due to unsafe conditions. The previous ramp was in need of replacement due to failure along the concrete planks of the ramp and inadequate length. The public has continued to use the parking area and primitive ramp for launching boats since 1990. The BLM has received several complaints about the need for providing an improved ramp at the South campground. Providing an improved ramp will serve to shift some of the existing day use and camping from the North campground to the underutilized South campground. Other project work will include an improved road access, parking area and installation of a single vault concrete toilet.

This environmental assessment (EA) will assist in the decision making process by assessing the potential effects to the physical and human environment resulting from implementing the proposed action. The EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact is appropriate.

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the following LUP documents

- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995);
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (September 1994).
- Gerber/Willow Valley Watershed Analysis

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

On page 50 of the Klamath Falls RMP/ROD, under the Klamath Falls Extensive Recreation Management Area, within the Gerber Block, the BLM is to “Continue to manage Gerber Recreation site with camping units to accommodate overnight, day use... and boat ramps”

Public Involvement

This project has been presented at a public meeting to the Oregon State Marine Board for a grant request. The grant request was approved by the Marine Board.

II. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action:

The proposed action will replace the South Gerber concrete boat ramp, which was removed over eighteen years ago due to unsafe conditions. This project will serve to maintain the existing facilities but expand opportunities available at the Gerber Recreation site with the replaced boat ramp. The previous ramp was in need of replacement due to failure along the concrete planks of the ramp and inadequate length. The

length of the replacement ramp will be extended approximately 40 feet to facilitate boater access during low water conditions. All work will be conducted after the summer camping season. The BLM has received an Oregon State Marine Board grant with specific timelines for grant reimbursement. Work is proposed to be started in the fall of 2008. Other project work will include improvement of the access road, and construction of a parking area and single vault concrete toilet.

Project Details: A 28,000 sq. ft. gravel parking area will be provided, along with a 1,410 sq. ft. concrete pad with precast concrete vault toilet. The access road would receive additional crushed rock surfacing. Both the road and parking area would be chip sealed to reduce dust, particulate runoff and washboarding. The boat ramp consists of a 25.3' X 177.4' cast-in-place concrete ramp (6" thick over 12" base) with a 6' X 60' self adjusting wood float guided by a concrete and steel adjusting guideway. Amount of material removal below ordinary high water is 247 cubic yards of rock; and 130 cubic yards above ordinary high water (OHW) for a total of 377 cubic yards material removal. The volume of fill below OHW includes 139 cubic yards of riprap, 183 cubic yards of rock base and 107 cubic yards of concrete for a total of 429 cubic yards. The volume of fill above OHW is 18 cubic yards of rip rap, 1,255 cubic yards of rock base and 44 cubic yards of concrete for a total of 1,317 cubic yards. Total amount of fill for the project is 1,746 cubic yards. (Refer to attached site plans.)

No reservoir drawdown will occur for the project. If the reservoir level is too high to allow for the full design length of the ramp to be constructed, then the project would be completed to the level of water which is practicable within contractual parameters. A future ramp extension would occur when the reservoir level allows final ramp design length to be completed. The future ramp extension would likely occur within ten years of initial construction, based on historical reservoir levels. Initial construction work is scheduled to begin approximately October 1, 2008, with a performance time of approximately 60 days.

An Army Corp of Engineers (Corp) fill permit (#199701361/1) has been received by the BLM for the project work. The Corp permit addresses several items including erosion control measures, equipment staging/refueling and documentation of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. A State of Oregon DSL permit is currently being processed. Both agencies would be contacted prior to the start of construction. Both agencies would also be contacted regarding extensions of the permit deadlines if the ramp is not completed to the final design length in 2008. This document serves to assess the environmental effects for the project to its final design.

The Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL) has been contacted regarding provisions for post-construction stormwater management. The DSL has stated that projects of this size (less than 1 acre) are exempt from these requirements. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in their review of the Corp permit has also stated that projects that disturb one acre or less do not require a storm water permit. Even though this is the case for this project, there are some features of the site that will prevent any pollutants from entering the water.

- 1) The parking lot will be constructed of gravel which will allow any stormwater to infiltrate and remove pollutants.
- 2) One-half of the parking area will be graded to drain into the center native vegetated swale area to allow stormwater to infiltrate the area.
- 3) Any pollutants from vehicles launching boats will drain through the ramp grooves and disperse through the rip rap along the ramp edges. Vehicles typically spend very little time when launching or retrieving boats from the reservoir.
- 4) When chip sealing of the parking area occurs, additional measures may be needed, such as installing a trench drain to separate oil from the runoff.

Alternative 2 – No Action

In this EA, the “no-action” alternative is defined as not implementing any aspect of the proposed action alternative. Defined this way, the “no action” alternative also serves as a baseline or reference point for

evaluating the environmental effects of the action alternatives. Inclusion of this alternative is done without regard to whether or not it is consistent with the Klamath Falls Resource Area RMP.

Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed

Draw the Reservoir Down Sufficiently to Complete the Boat Ramp

This alternative was not analyzed further because Gerber Reservoir provides irrigation water to downstream users and BLM does not have the authority to control water levels and releases.

Construct a Cofferd Dam to Allow Construction of the Boat Ramp

This alternative was not analyzed further because BLM does not have sufficient funding to construct a coffer dam.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Resource values that are either not present in the project area, or would not be affected by any of the proposed alternatives are: floodplains, wilderness study areas (WSAs), areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), research natural areas (RNAs), paleontological resources, prime or unique farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, lands, air quality, soils, and minerals. There are no known hazardous waste sites in the analysis area. The RMP does not identify any energy sources in the vicinity.

Hydrology

Gerber Watershed 5th field watershed totals 176,008 acres. Gerber Reservoir has an inflow average of 57,000 acre feet, from a drainage of approximately 234 square miles (Gerber-Willow Valley Watershed Analysis 2003:4). Stream flow that contributes to Gerber Reservoir rises responding to mid-winter rain and spring snowmelt and then remains low from late spring through fall. Gerber Dam controls the release of irrigation water into Miller Creek. The reservoir water level begins to drop at the onset of the irrigation season (mid-April to mid-May) and may drop as much as 20 vertical feet until October when irrigation ceases for the season. Average precipitation as measured at the Snotel weather station near the proposed boat ramp is 12-20 inches per year, mostly as snow. Water clarity in the reservoir is affected by suspended colloidal clay material from the reservoir bottom and to a lesser degree from watershed runoff.

The project location is primarily an existing cinder surfaced area and existing primitive boat ramp. Non-point run-off from native disturbed soil and cinder surfaced areas likely contributes a small amount of sediment to Gerber Reservoir. Compacted or impervious surfaces such as roads, parking areas, and boat ramp reduce soil infiltration and increase surface run-off. Within the reservoir, soil stabilizing vegetation is limited to annual plants in the upper margins of the reservoir bottom.

Aquatic Species Habitat

Gerber Reservoir supports a variety of aquatic species (refer to Table 1). Because of the amount of habitat afforded by lake environments and favorable conditions for growth, Gerber Reservoir is a highly productive fishery. Construction of the reservoir has allowed for the establishment of warm water exotic species such as yellow perch, crappie, and largemouth bass.

Table 1: Fish species collected from Gerber Reservoir using trammel nets and trapnets during 1992-1996 (BOR), and 2000 (BRD).

Common name	Scientific name
tui chub	<i>Gila bicolor</i>
shortnose sucker	<i>Chasmistes brevirostris</i>
black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
white crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>
largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
redband trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>
brown bullhead	<i>Ictalurus nebulosis</i>
unidentified lamprey	<i>Lampetra</i> spp.

Threatened or Endangered Species

The shortnose sucker was listed as endangered in 1988 under the Endangered Species Act. Gerber Reservoir is identified as unit 6 in the proposed critical habitat for shortnose sucker and is the only major habitat area inhabited by shortnose suckers but not Lost River suckers. Proposed critical habitat includes waters of Gerber Reservoir below the high water mark.

Redband trout, a state sensitive species, are limited to a few small, scattered populations within the Watershed (Gerber-Willow Valley Watershed Analysis 2003:7).

Vegetation

Special Status Species – Botany

No special status plant species are documented from the project site. Systematic surveys have not been completed, but the small project area is well known due to its accessibility and on-going recreational activity.

Noxious Weeds

No noxious weed species are documented from the project site. Systematic surveys have not been completed, but the small project area is well known due to its accessibility and on-going recreational activity.

Wildlife

Special Status/Threatened or Endangered Species - Wildlife

No terrestrial wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) occur within the footprint of the project or will be affected by the proposed project. Therefore there will be no direct or indirect impacts to T&E species from the proposed project.

BLM Sensitive Species and Landbirds

No terrestrial special status species has been documented in the footprint of the proposed project. Surveys for reptiles and amphibians have been conducted around Gerber Reservoir. No special status species were located during this survey effort.

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is classified as a BLM Sensitive species and is currently listed as Threatened by the State of Oregon. There are four known bald eagle territories adjacent to Gerber Reservoir (Isaacs and Anthony 2006). Only one is within ½-mile (.35 miles) of the project the remainder are greater than ¾-mile away from the project. This territory is across the reservoir and out of line of sight of the proposed activity. Gerber Reservoir is the main foraging habitat for these bald eagles.

As stated in the proposed action the area has served as a boat ramp for decades and the footprint of the boat ramp and parking area has already been established. No terrestrial special status landbird habitat would be lost during the reconstruction of the boat ramp.

Grazing

The proposed project site is within the boundaries of the Dry Prairie Allotment. A fence was built in 2000 to exclude livestock from the north and south campgrounds and the boat ramp area. The fenced area which includes the proposed project area is no longer authorized for livestock use in the Dry Prairie Allotment grazing permits.

Cultural Resources

Gerber Reservoir is a 3,830-surface acre reservoir constructed in 1925 as part of the Klamath Irrigation Project by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for irrigation water storage. Its waters flood the southern end of what was once known as Horsefly Valley. Originally the valley floor was a large, open seasonal wet meadow through which Barnes Creek, Barnes Valley Creek and Ben Hall Creek flowed. The three creeks merged and exited the valley as Miller Creek.

The rich resources (water, root crops, and large game) once offered by Horsefly Valley encouraged intense use of the area by Native Americans as evidenced by the abundant prehistoric sites found in the region. Excavation of the Peninsula Site (35KL87), a nearby village site, in 1986 by the University of Oregon suggests that the area has been occupied for at least 4,000 years (Silvermoon 1994). At the time of Euro-American contact, the Gerber area was part of the Modoc Indian territory, specifically the tribesmen known as the *Kokiwias*, which means “people of the far out country” (Ray 1963:202).

Euro-American settlement of the Gerber Reservoir region began in the late 1800s. The Gerber family homesteaded in 1886 and operated one of the largest ranches in the south end of Horsefly valley until 1923 when the property was sold to BOR. The Gerber family then moved to the north end of the valley (Beckham 2000:51 and Unknown Author 2000). A Klamath County Historical Society historical marker commemorating the Gerber Family stands next to the South Gerber Campground boat launch.

During WWII, the Gerber Reservoir served as an Air-to-Air Gunnery Range for the 13th Naval District. This District was associated with Kingsley Field Naval Air Station in Klamath Falls. A cement dive bombing target was erected in the reservoir for navy pilot training (Beckham 2000:117).

Today, the Gerber Reservoir is a popular recreation local. The Gerber Reservoir campground was built in 1963-64. It was the first BLM campground developed in eastern Oregon (LRRRA 1980).

Recreation

Existing recreation uses in the Gerber reservoir area include camping, fishing, boating, hunting, wildlife viewing and swimming. The availability of developed and primitive roads provides a variety of sight seeing and off-highway vehicle (OHV) driving opportunities. The North Gerber campground has a developed boat ramp and dock facility. This boat launch receives moderate to heavy use when fishing opportunities and catch rates are good at the reservoir. The South Gerber campground has a primitive parking area and boat launch at the site of this proposed development. This launch area receives very light use due to the lack of a hardened, smooth ramp for launching boats and suitable parking. The BLM has received several complaints over the past years about the lack of an improved boat ramp at the South Gerber campground.

The boating/camping public prefers the North Gerber campground due to its on-site boat launch facility. This frequently causes the North campground to reach full capacity on many summer weekends. Also, during reservoir spill operations, several of the North campground campsites are unavailable due to high water levels. During these same time periods, the South Gerber campground has many available campsites and is underutilized. By providing an improved launch near the South Gerber campground the

BLM hopes to spread out some of the existing camping and boating use intensity, and therefore reduce crowded conditions at the North Campground.

Fuels & Fire

The BLM-administered lands within the vicinity of the proposed project have been classified using the Standard Landscape method as being in Fire Regime IV, Condition Class I. Fire is rare within this Biophysical Setting (Desert Shrubland With Grasses and Trees). In Condition Class I, Fire regimes are within the natural (historical) range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Vegetation attributes (species composition, structure, and pattern) are intact and functioning within the natural (historical) range.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Refer to Table 1 for a discussion of potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives relative to certain critical resource values. Discussion of impacts to other resource values follows.

Table 2: Summary of Potential Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical Element	Potential Impact	Remarks
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None	
Prime or Unique Farmlands	None	
Flood Plains	None	
Cultural Resources	Increased probability of site damage	Improved access increases recreational use which may increase cultural site vandalism and/or looting
Native American Religious Concerns	None	The Tribes have requested that the project be monitored during construction.
Threatened or Endangered Species, Special Status Species	Informal Consultation Needed-- NAA	Proposed Critical habitat below high water line of Gerber Reservoir. Erosion control plan, run-off during and after construction.
Noxious Weeds	None	
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	None	
Water Quality	Sedimentation and petroleum pollutants	Sediment and pollutant discharge from impervious surfaces and disturbed areas
Wetland/Riparian Zones	Riparian Reserves	Project is within riparian reserve but is within the footprint of an existing development
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None	
Wilderness Areas	None	
Wild Horse and Burro Management	None	
Mineral Resources	None	
Water Resources	NA	No affect on water quantity or municipal drinking source water
Rangeland Resources	None	Livestock grazing is not authorized within a fenced area that includes the proposed project site.
Visual Resources	None	
Recreation Resources	None	Potential reduction in visitor use of the north campground and boat ramp area, with a corresponding increase in use of the south campground area
Environmental Justice	None	No disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects to low income or minority populations are expected to result from implementation of the proposed action

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action

Hydrology

The project area encompasses approximately one half acre including a vault toilet, concrete slab, walkway, concrete boat ramp, and gravel parking area. The existing primitive boat ramp and parking area encompasses approximately one third acre, for a net increase of developed area of approximately one fifth acre. One-half of the parking area will be graded to drain into the center native vegetated swale area to allow stormwater to infiltrate the area. Pollutants from vehicles launching boats will drain through the ramp grooves and disperse through the rip rap along the ramp edges. When chip sealing of the parking area occurs, additional measures may be needed, such as installing a trench drain to separate oil from the runoff. Run-off from the parking and staging areas is directed to a steel discharge culvert at the high water line of the reservoir. Concentrating the runoff to a single point could result in some rilling or gully erosion between the discharge point (high water line) and the water surface of the reservoir unless and armored conveyance channel is constructed which extends to the design low-water level. The swale at center of parking area should filter sediment and petroleum run-off reducing potential harmful effects.

Aquatic Species Habitat

Although the proposed ramp will be built to reservoir level, it is reasonable to assume that there will be in-water construction in order to taper ramp into the reservoir. The project would be within proposed shortnose sucker (*Chamistes brevirostris*) critical habitat and shortnose sucker occur within the vicinity of the project. Suckers spawn in Gerber tributaries April to early May (USFW 2007). Sucker larvae emerge sometime April to early June and move downstream to lakes (Cooperman and Markle 2003). In-water work would be restricted to mid-September and later when water levels are low; it is the consensus of BLM resource managers that when in-water work occurs within the proposed dates sucker larvae will have reached an optimal size that allows them to swim and avoid the project area during project implementation. No direct impacts are predicted to shortnose suckers from the proposed project.

No reservoir drawdown will occur for the project. If the reservoir level is too high to allow for the full design length of the ramp to be constructed, then the project would be completed at the level of water which is practicable within contractual parameters. A future ramp extension would occur when the reservoir level allows final ramp design length to be completed. Initial construction work is scheduled to begin approximately October 1, 2008, with a performance time of approximately 60 days. Construction and design features of the project that would likely minimize and/or avoid impacts to the suckers would be as follows:

- 1) A silt/turbidity curtain would be used to surround the construction site, reducing the movement of water-borne particles and excluding fish from within the work zone.
- 2) A sediment fence would be installed to prevent surface flow and potential erosion occurring during construction. Post construction activities will include seeding, sodding, or revegetating any exposed surfaces to prevent subsequent erosion.

Project implementation could potentially increase the introduction of sediment into the reservoir during construction. Increased utilization of the site post project could potentially increase disturbance of shortnose sucker habitat. BLM resource managers concur that utilization of the northern (improved) boat ramp at Gerber Reservoir may decrease with the addition of another improved boat ramp. Therefore, sucker habitat disturbance would remain the same throughout the reservoir as a whole and proposed critical habitat for shortnose sucker would not be adversely modified.

The BLM concludes that sucker species present within the proposed project area during project implementation would be capable of avoiding disturbance. Increases in sediment are expected to be mitigated by project design features listed above. However, a potential decrease in sediment transport is possible post project due to boat access over concrete as opposed to current cinder.

Based on the assessment of the proposed action, the BLM believes that the proposed action **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect** shortnose suckers.

Additional and cumulative Impacts on a watershed and project level scale are expected to be insignificant and minor due to the scope of the project and the fact that the footprint of the project has already been established and is currently being utilized as an unimproved reservoir access site.

Vegetation

Special Status Species – Botany

Since no special status plant species are documented from the project site, there would be no effect on special status plant species.

Noxious Weeds

Construction activities would provide the disturbed conditions under which many noxious weed species have a competitive advantage relative to native plant species. Machinery and equipment brought to the site for implementation of the project would have the potential to introduce noxious weeds to the site. Prevention measures incorporated into the project design features would reduce the potential for introduction and an active weed management program would be able to quickly treat any noxious weeds that became established at this easily accessible site. Therefore, no long term impacts from noxious weeds are expected as an effect of this project.

Wildlife

Threatened or Endangered Species (T&E)

There are no known terrestrial T&E species that occur within the footprint of the proposed project or that would be affected by the project. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect impacts to T&E species.

BLM Sensitive Species and Landbirds

One bald eagle nest is within ½ mile of the proposed project. No disruption of nesting activity or adverse impacts on eagles are anticipated from the construction of the boat ramp and facilities under the proposed action. The nest site is out of line of sight from the boat ramp, is across the reservoir and is greater than .25 miles away. No seasonal work restrictions to implement the proposed action would be necessary. This is consistent with the bald eagle recovery plan (USDI FWS 1986) and the Klamath Falls RMP/ROD (USDI 1995) guidelines.

The reservoir does serve as foraging habitat for the bald eagle, however the lack of trees around the proposed ramp and parking lot limits perching habitat. The area around the proposed construction is largely open sage brush steppe habitat. Bald eagles spend the majority of their time perching in trees, especially when foraging (Watson, et al 1991). Therefore minimal disturbance to foraging habitat is anticipated.

After the ramp is constructed, increased use by the public will likely occur at this ramp although overall public use within Gerber Reservoir is not anticipated to increase. The improvement of this boat ramp would likely shift some of the public use from the north campground boat ramp to the proposed boat ramp. This may reduce some of the human activity adjacent to the bald eagles near the north boat ramp. There are currently two active nests within ½ mile of the north boat ramp.

No direct impacts to landbirds are anticipated from the proposed project. The footprint has already been established for the proposed project since it has been serving as a boat ramp for decades. There would be increased disturbance to the area by improving the boat ramp and making it more accessible to the public. This would impact those landbirds that nested close to the parking area and boat ramp primarily. Overall impact would be minimal to special status landbirds.

Grazing

The proposed project would have no effect upon livestock grazing. The proposed project site is within a fenced area that is excluded from authorized livestock grazing.

Cultural Resources

The project area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. No cultural sites were found within or adjacent (up to 300 ft.) to the project boundary. Although small in scope, this project lies in an area rich in both prehistoric and historic cultural resources and all Federal land management projects have the potential to disturb cultural resources.

Known sites lie within a ¼ mile of the project boundaries and the potential to encounter, or disturb, subsurface archaeological deposits is high. Prior to project implementation, the project lead shall meet with the KFRA Lead Archaeologist to ensure that additional site information has not come to light from the time this document was prepared and the project is implemented. The project lead must also meet with the KFRA Lead Archaeologist concerning project timing due to a request by the Klamath Tribes to monitor the project during construction.

Cultural resources are non-renewable and sites in the area have suffered damage from past vandalism and looting. It must be noted that increasing recreational opportunities increases the potential of cultural site disturbance.

Recreation

The Klamath Falls RMP/ROD states that the BLM is to manage and maintain Gerber recreation site for camping and day use, including boat ramps for visitors. This project will serve to meet this objective by replacing the previously removed boat ramp with a slightly longer, Oregon State Marine Board designed boat ramp with a floating dock. The improved boat ramp will offer a greater level of safety while walking on the ramp as the concrete will be deeply grooved. The parking area will be improved and a vault toilet will be provided on site. In addition, it is anticipated that these developments will shift some of the existing camping and day use from the North campground to the South campground area. This will benefit the recreating public by reducing crowded conditions at the North campground and boat launch area. The RMP analyzed a wide range of alternatives for recreation developments.

Fuels & Fire

Because the proposed improvements will be primarily located within the footprint of the previous boat ramp facilities, no change in fuels is expected. With any increase in recreational use, there is a corresponding increase in probability of ignition. However, this will be mitigated by fire prevention efforts and proximity of the Gerber Guard Station. In addition, the site has sparse fuels, which will generally only support fire spread under very windy conditions. Consequently no effect on fire hazard is expected.

Alternative 2 – No Action

Hydrology

Use of the primitive boat ramp would continue to produce a small amount of non-point sediment delivered to Gerber Reservoir. The overall impacts from the current boat ramp are not expected to be measurable or cause a significant impact to water quality.

Aquatic Species Habitat

Under this alternative the site would remain unchanged and continue to be utilized as an unimproved reservoir access site. There would be no impacts, beneficial or negative, to endangered suckers. Any impacts on the watershed scale would continue or remain unchanged.

Vegetation

Special Status Species – Botany

Since no special status plant species are documented from the existing facility site, there would be no effect on special status plant species.

Noxious Weeds

There are currently no noxious weed species documented at the existing facility site. Continued use of the site by vehicles would provide the disturbance regimes for possible future infestations of noxious weed species. Monitoring of the site would continue and the current weed management program should be able to quickly treat any noxious weeds that became established at this easily accessible site

Wildlife

Alternative 2 – No Action

No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to terrestrial special status species (T&E, BLM Sensitive, Birds of Conservation Concern) from the No Action alternative. The area is currently used as a parking lot and boat ramp and has been in use for decades. This use will likely continue. No habitat improvement (quantity or quality) or habitat loss would occur from the No Action alternative.

Grazing

The No Action alternative would have no effect upon livestock grazing. The existing facility is within a fenced area that is excluded from authorized livestock grazing.

Cultural Resources

Under the no action alternative, known archaeological sites would continue to be protected from ground disturbing activities. The project area has been completely surveyed and there are no known sites in the immediate vicinity.

Recreation

Existing recreation uses and use patterns will likely continue under this alternative. The South campground area would continue to be underutilized by the camping and boating public. The North campground area would continue to have crowded conditions and at times be at full capacity.

Fuels & Fire

This alternative would have no effect on fuels or fire danger.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

<u>Preparers</u>	<u>Resource Responsibility</u>
Scott Senter	Author, Recreation Resources
Andy Hamilton	Hydrology
James Ross	Fisheries
Steve Hayner	Wildlife
Michelle Durant	Cultural Resources
Brian McCarty	Engineering
Kathy Lindsey	Writer-Editor
Eric Johnson	Fire/Fuels
Dana Eckard	Range Resources
Lou Whiteaker	Botany/Weeds
Don Hoffheins	Planning and Environmental Coordination

Agencies/Groups Contacted

The Klamath Tribes - The topic of the South Gerber Campground Boat Ramp project was discussed with the Klamath Tribes' cultural representative on June 8, 2006. Additional discussion occurred on August 22, 2006 at a bi-monthly consultation and coordination meeting. More recently, the project was discussed

at a bi-monthly consultation and coordination meeting on February 21, 2008. The Tribes have requested that the project be monitored during construction.

The Oregon State Marine Board provided a preliminary survey of the site and a complete design for the project. The Army Corp of Engineers and Oregon State Division of Lands have been contacted regarding any necessary in-water permits needed for the project. The Corps received comments from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the project.

Informal consultation is ongoing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may be affected from the proposed action. The BLM has determined that the proposed action “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” the shortnose sucker and a “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” proposed critical habitat for the shortnose sucker. The BLM has made on “No Effect” determination on all other proposed or listed species and designated or proposed critical habitat.

VI. LITERATURE AND REFERENCES

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Figure 1: General Location Map

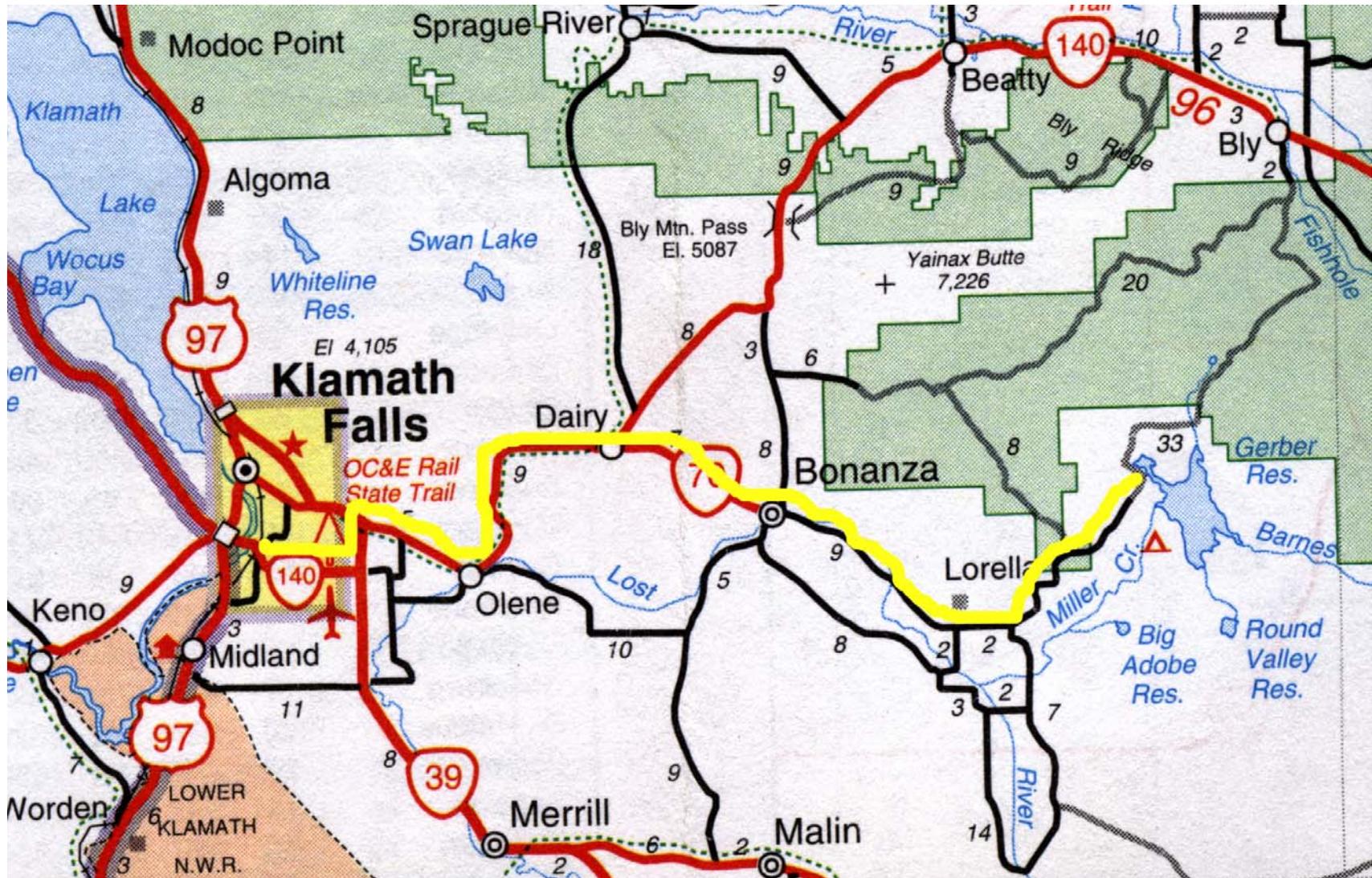


Figure 2: Existing Site Plan

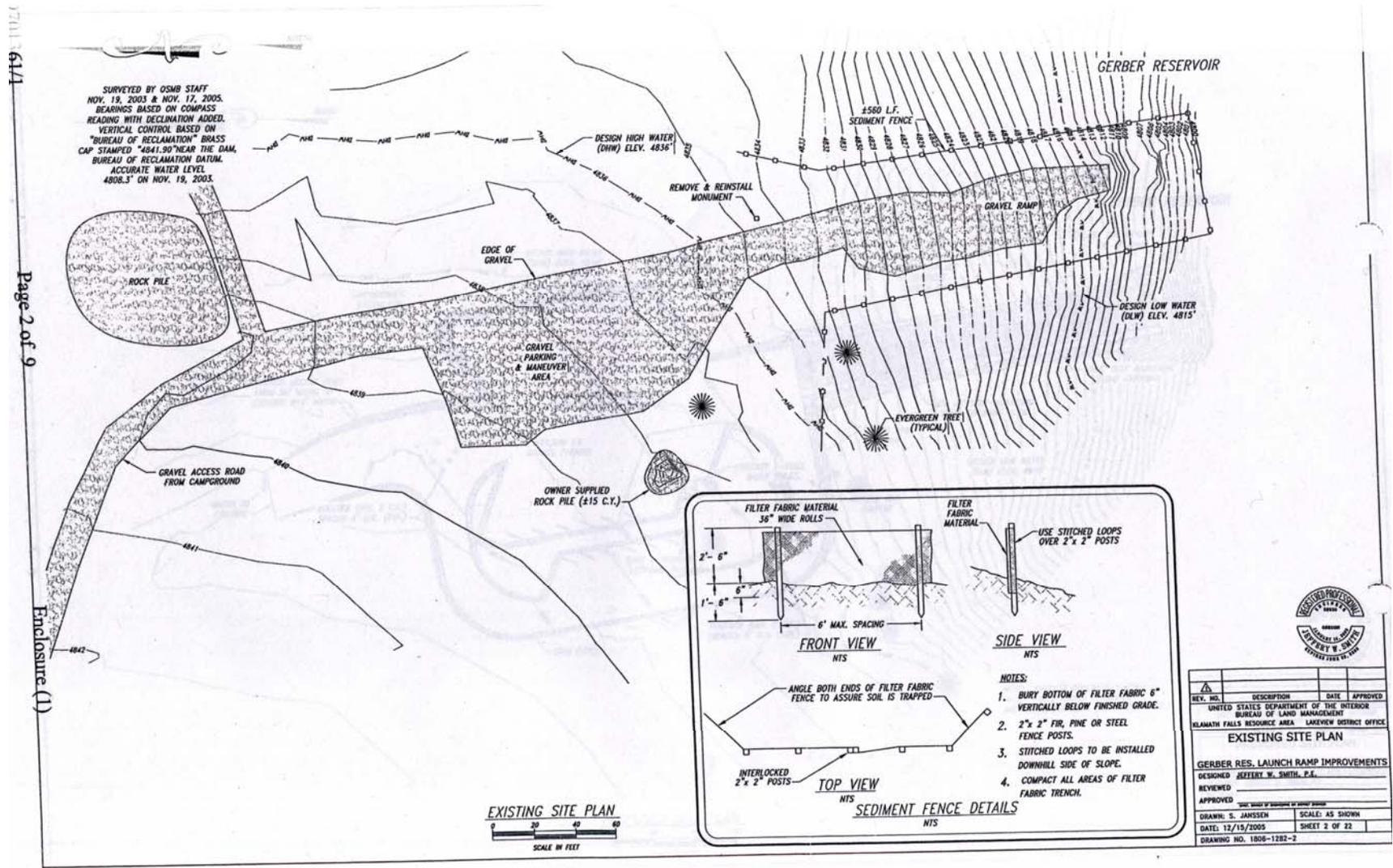
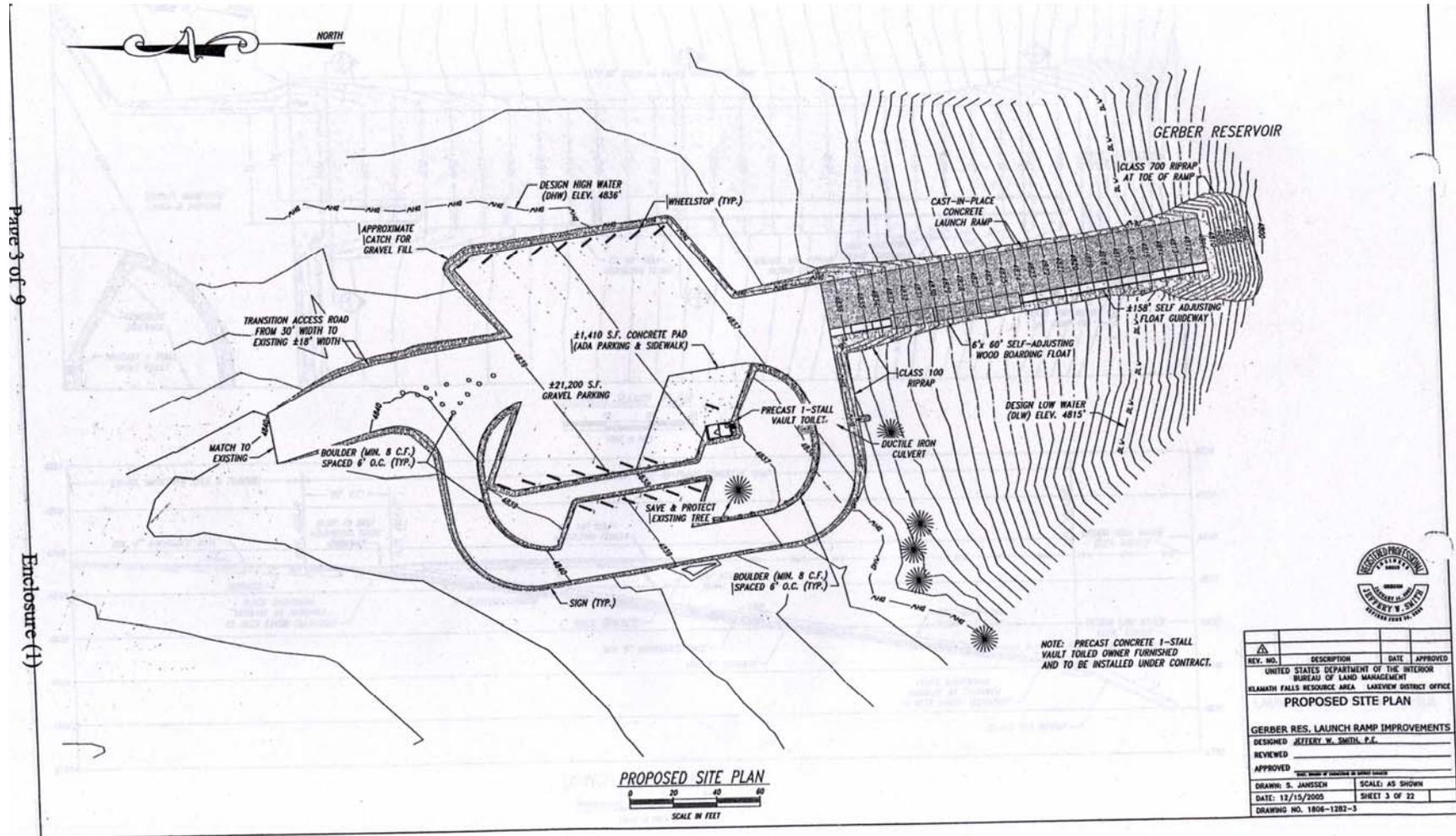


Figure 3: Proposed Site Development



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the
Gerber South Boat Ramp Environmental Assessment
EA #OR-014-08-03

In response to a need for providing an improved ramp at the South Gerber campground, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze a proposal to replace the South Gerber concrete boat ramp, which was removed approximately eighteen years ago due to unsafe conditions. The EA considered two alternatives:

Alternative A (Proposed Action) – South Gerber concrete boat ramp replacement

The proposed action will replace the South Gerber concrete boat ramp, which was removed over eighteen years ago due to unsafe conditions. This project will serve to maintain the existing facilities but expand opportunities available at the Gerber Recreation site with the replaced boat ramp. The previous ramp was in need of replacement due to failure along the concrete planks of the ramp and inadequate length. The length of the replacement ramp will be extended approximately 40 feet to facilitate boater access during low water conditions. All work will be conducted after the summer camping season. The BLM has received an Oregon State Marine Board grant with specific timelines for grant reimbursement. Work is proposed to be started in the fall of 2008. Other project work will include improvement of the access road, and construction of a parking area and single vault concrete toilet.

Alternative B – No Action

In this EA, the “no-action” alternative is defined as not implementing any aspect of the proposed action alternative. Defined this way, the “no action” alternative also serves as a baseline or reference point for evaluating the environmental effects of the action alternatives. Inclusion of this alternative is done without regard to whether or not it is consistent with the Klamath Falls Resource Area RMP.

The proposed action and no action alternatives were analyzed for significant effects as per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27. The following criteria listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered and found to be not applicable to this action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and precedents for future actions with significant effects.

The following unique characteristics (Critical Elements of the Human Environment), listed in 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3), are not present and will not be affected: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; wilderness; solid or hazardous waste; and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

In regard to 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8), no adverse impacts are expected to cultural, scientific, or historical resources. The proposed area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. No historic or prehistoric cultural resources were identified within or adjacent to the area proposed project area. Prior to project implementation, the project lead shall meet with the KFRA Lead Archaeologist to ensure that additional site information has not come to light during the time between preparation of this document and implementation of the project. The project lead must also meet with the KFRA Lead Archaeologist concerning project timing in response to a request by the Klamath Tribes to have the project be monitored during construction.

There will be no significant impacts to any special status terrestrial species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. One bald eagle nest is within ½ mile of the proposed project. No disruptions of nesting activity or adverse impacts on eagles are anticipated from the construction of the boat ramp and facilities under the proposed action. Surveys of the proposed treatment area were conducted for Threatened and Endangered terrestrial species

and special status species. No Designated Critical Habitat or known sites of special status terrestrial species occur within the project area.

The project would be within proposed shortnose sucker (*Chamistes brevirostris*) aquatic critical habitat and shortnose sucker occur within the vicinity of the project. Suckers spawn in Gerber tributaries April to early May (USFW 2007). Sucker larvae emerge sometime April to early June and move downstream to lakes (Cooperman and Markle 2003). In-water work would be restricted to mid-September and later when water levels are low. It is the consensus of BLM resource managers that during the time period proposed for in-water work, sucker larvae will have reached an optimal size that allows them to swim and avoid the project area during project implementation. No direct impacts are predicted to shortnose suckers from the proposed project.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's fill permit (#199701361/1) has been received for the project. An Oregon State Division of State Lands permit application (#36436) is undergoing final processing.

The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified internally by the BLM or externally through public involvement. Consultation with local tribal governments has not identified any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on the National Energy Policy. There will be no known adverse effect on the National Energy Policy or on energy resources. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential and energy producing or processing facilities.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, it is my determination that neither alternative analyzed constitutes a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the following:

- Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and EIS (FEIS), 1994
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, 1995 (KFRA ROD/RMP)

I have determined that this action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required. I have further determined that the proposed action conforms to management direction from and will contribute to meeting the objectives of the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, as amended. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Signed: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom
Donald J. Holmstrom, Field Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date: 3/26/08