



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504



**REROUTE OF THE PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (PCT)
IN THE GREEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN AREA
EA No. OR-116-08-06**

**DECISION RECORD
AND
FINDING OF NO ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Introduction

As a result of the 1996 Optimal Location Review the BLM, Medford District Ashland Resource area proposes to reroute a section of trail near Green Springs Mountain to better meet the National Trails System Act. Rerouting the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) from its original location where it parallels BLM Road 39-3E-32 to the west side of Green Springs Mountain will improve the recreational experience of trail users. The new route would encompass picturesque views of the Rogue Valley, wide open meadows, and oak savannah which are bypassed using the current route. The existing trail would remain open to create a short loop trail.

Plan Conformance

The proposed action and project design features are further described in the attached environmental assessment (EA). This finding of no additional significant impact (FONASI) and attached EA are tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* as amended by the *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (USDI 2007)*. The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994)*. These documents are available at the Medford BLM office.

Finding of No Additional Significant Impact

I have considered both context and intensity of the impacts anticipated from the Green Springs Mountain PCT reroute project relative to each of the ten significance criteria suggested by the CEQ. I have determined that my decision to implement the proposed action as described in this Decision will not have any additional significant adverse effects beyond those effects described in broader analyses which includes the *1994 Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, 1994 Final SEIS On Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the 2001 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*.

The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species

Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

Through the EA process, the interdisciplinary team reviewed the following critical elements of the human environment as they relate to this project: air quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), cultural resources, environmental justice, farmlands, floodplains, Native American religious concerns, invasive non-native species, threatened and endangered species, hazardous/solid wastes, water quality, wetlands/riparian zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness. No substantive site-specific environmental changes would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives as discussed in the associated EA. Should threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources be discovered during project implementation, they would be protected.

The *Reroute of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the Green Springs Mountain Area EA* was available for a five-day public review period beginning on June 20, 2008. This review provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action. No comments were received during this public review period.

A no effect determination was made by BLM regarding the federally listed *Fritillaria gentneri*, the Southern Oregon/Northern California coho salmon, and the northern spotted owl.

On the basis of the information contained in the attached EA and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is my determination that the proposed action alternative does not constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment as defined by 40 CFR 1508.27; therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Decision and Rationale

Upon careful review of all the information available to me, it is my decision to implement the proposed action as described in Alternative 2 of the EA and briefly summarized above. The proposed action would reroute the PCT in order to provide a quality experience for recreational trail users encompassing picturesque views of the Rogue Valley, wide open meadows, and oak savannah which are bypassed using the current route. The existing trail would remain open to create a short loop trail.

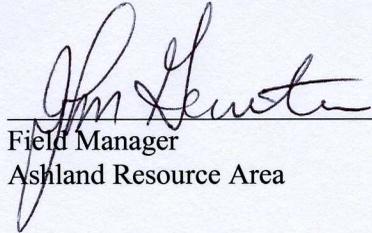
Administrative Remedies

Any party to a case who believes they may be adversely affected by a decision of an officer of the Bureau of Land Management has the right to appeal to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board), in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR part 4. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office within thirty (30) days of the Notice of Decision for transmittal to the Board. If your notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of your notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 607, Portland, Oregon 97232. In taking an appeal, there must be strict compliance with the regulations.

According to 43 CFR Part 4, you have the right to petition the Office of Hearings and Appeals to stay the implementation of the decision; however, you must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision. A petition for stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- 1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- 2) The likelihood of the appellants success on the merits,
- 3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- 4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Should you choose to file, your stay request must accompany your notice of appeal. A notice of appeal with petition for stay must be served upon the Board, Regional Solicitor, and adverse party at the same time such documents are served on the deciding official at this office.



Field Manager
Ashland Resource Area

6/30/08
Date