

Prineville District

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Determination

**Introduction:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA), No.OR-056-06-014, for a proposed action to designate a transportation system, grant ROWs, and conduct vegetation management actions in the Cline Buttes Recreation Area (CBRA). The 32,000 acre CBRA is located between the communities of Bend, Redmond and Sisters in Deschutes County. The primary purpose and need of this project is to provide recreation opportunities while reducing social conflicts and maintaining resource values, provide necessary access to private lands, and address wildland fire concerns and declining vegetative conditions.

The EA is attached to and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. A no action alternative was analyzed in the EA.

**Plan Conformance:**

The proposed project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the following BLM plans and associated Record of Decision(s):

1. Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, September 2005

**Finding of No Significant Impact Determination:**

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Upper Deschutes RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

**Context:** The project is a site-specific action directly involving the 32,000 acre Cline Buttes Recreation Area, one of thirteen management units of the High Desert Special Recreation Management Area designated in the UDRMP.

**Intensity:** The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and the additional criteria as required by the following Instruction Memorandum, Acts and Executive Orders: Instruction Memorandum No. 99-178, the Lacey Act, as amended; the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species; Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice; Clean Water Act of 1987; Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments to the Clean Water Act of 1996; Executive Order 12088 on federal compliance with pollution control standards, as amended; Executive Order 12589 on Superfund compliance; and Executive Order dated July 14, 1982 on intergovernmental review of federal programs.

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The proposed action would impact resources as described in the EA. Mitigations to reduce impacts are incorporated in the design of the proposed action. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the Upper Deschutes RMP/FEIS.
2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.** The proposed action provides benefits to public health and safety by reducing fuel loads and wildland fire risk, and providing a designated and maintained transportation system for the CBRA.
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The historic and cultural resources of the area have been reviewed by an archeologist and potential impacts mitigated in the design of the proposed action. There are no effects on park lands, prime farm lands, caves designated under 43 CFR 37, designated wilderness or wilderness study areas, wetlands or federally designated wild and scenic rivers. Effects to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's) have been reviewed and mitigated in the design of the proposed action.
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** While considerable conflict and differences in opinion exist in how best to manage multiple uses in the CBRA, there are no effects which are expected to be highly controversial. Where some uncertainty exists with regards to effectiveness of some vegetation management techniques, the proposed action provides for an adaptive management approach to monitor and adjust management actions based on plan criteria.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has implemented similar actions with regards to vegetation treatments, road and trail designations and issuance of ROW grants in many areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted

effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The actions considered in the proposed action were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. An analysis of the effects of the proposed action is described in the EA.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in the EA.
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The project would not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.** Mitigations to reduce impacts to wildlife have been incorporated into the design of the proposed action. No listed fish species occupy habitat within the project boundary. No threatened or endangered plants or animals occupy the project area.
10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of a Federal, State or local law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.** The project does not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. State, local, and tribal interests were given the opportunity to participate in the environmental analysis process. Furthermore, the project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Molly Brown, Deschutes Field Manager

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Date