Prineville District
Finding of No Significant Impact
Determination

Introduction:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Crooked River National Grassland (CRNG) have conducted an environmental analysis (Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR-056-07-108) for a proposed action to construct and rehabilitate nonmotorized trails in the Crooked River Ranch (CRR) area in Jefferson County. The primary purpose and need of this project is to address the following objectives:

1. Reduce erosion and loss of vegetation due to unmanaged vehicle use and unmaintained roads and trails in the Crooked and Deschutes River canyon areas.
2. Increase and enhance nonmotorized trail opportunities in the CRR area.

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 Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (UDRMP, Record of Decision, 2005), Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan (Record of Decision, 1989), and the Middle Deschutes/Lower Crooked Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (W&SR, Decision Record, 1992).

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 Deschutes Resource Management Plan, Crooked River National Grassland Management Plan, and Middle Deschutes/Lower Crooked Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. 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 a total of approximately 415 acres on land administered by the BLM, 300 acres of land administered by the Crooked River National Grassland and 113 acres of land administered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the State of Oregon which by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

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 to wildlife were 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 Deschutes Resource Management Plan, Crooked River National Grassland Management Plan and Middle Deschutes/Lower Crooked Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.
2. **The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.** The proposed action is designed to control erosion and loss of vegetation while providing for safe, nonmotorized trails. The project would enhance public safety.
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. The project will maintain or enhance Outstandingly Remarkable Values associated with the Middle Deschutes and lower Crooked Wild and Scenic Rivers. The project will enhance the overall wilderness values of the Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area.
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** There are no effects which are expected to be highly controversial.
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 in similar 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 will 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 were observed in the area.
10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of a Federal, State, Local, or Tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-Federal requirements are consistent with Federal requirements.** The project does not violate any known Federal, State, Local or Tribal 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.
11. **Comply with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (water resource development projects only)**. The project will comply with the intent of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. Since this is not a water resources development project, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act does not apply.
12. **Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E)) not already decided in an approved land use plan.** There are no unresolved conflicts not already approved in land use plans.
13. **Have a disproportionate significant adverse impact on low income or minority populations; Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice).** This project does not have a disproportionate significant adverse impact on low income or minority populations; Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice).
14. **Restrict access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites; Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites). Have significant adverse effect on Indian Trust Resources.** This project does not restrict access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites; Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites). This project does not have significant adverse effects on Indian Trust Resources.
15. **Contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of: Federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act); or invasive non-native species; Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species).** This project does not contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of: Federally listed noxious weeds or invasive nonnative species.
16. **Have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution; Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects).** This project does not have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.

Approved By: Michelle McSwain — Oct. 7, 2008
for Molly M. Brown, Deschutes Area Manger — Date

Slater Turner — Oct. 7, 2008
Slater Turner, Crooked River
National Grassland District Ranger — Date