

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wenatchee Field Office
915 North Walla Walla Avenue
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

DECISION RECORD

For the Patos Island Composting Toilets

DOI-BLM-OR-134-2011-0001-EA

San Juan County, Washington

I. BACKGROUND

Recreation on Patos Island (T38N, R2W Sec.16) is cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Washington State Parks Commission (WASPC) according to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Restroom facilities on the island currently consist of two pit toilets and one vault toilet. The current restroom facilities are deteriorating and cannot sustain continued or increased use. The purpose of this action is to provide toilets on Patos Island for public use that: 1) are in good serviceable condition, 2) will accommodate the high visitor use this area receives, 3) will reduce the maintenance needs associated with the existing toilets, and 4) will not cause major adverse impacts to natural resources.

The existing pit toilets are beyond their maintenance threshold, have surpassed their intended lifespan and are in unsatisfactory condition due to rotted wood, leaking roofs, and slippery surfaces during wet periods. Due to the secluded nature of Patos Island and the location of the vault toilet on the island, the logistical requirements for maintenance are inefficient. Composting toilets maintenance regimes are more efficient. The converted vault toilet would also meet the need for tool and toilet facility supply storage.

II. DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action:

The BLM, Washington State Parks, and volunteers will manually disassemble the existing pit toilets and decommission the existing vault toilet. All materials will be hauled away by watercraft, and properly disposed of. The remaining holes will be filled with locally-sourced weed-free soils.

The pit toilet area which is approximately 80 square feet will be restored with native grass seed, plants, and debris. The existing vault toilet will be decommissioned and used as toileting supply and maintenance tools storage. Pumped and collected wastes will be transported similar to routine maintenance activities.

Construction of two new composting toilets will be performed by Washington State Parks, BLM staff, and volunteers. Site preparation, construction, and cleanup will be scheduled outside of the high-use season, given favorable weather considerations and available volunteers.

The pathway (82.02' x 3.28') to Unit #1 (a double unit) will be constructed using a non-ground disturbing building technique which entails covering the ground surface with geotextile fabric and overlaying it with wire mesh.

Ongoing maintenance of the two new composting toilets will be performed by Washington State Parks, BLM staff, and volunteers.

The Proposed Action and activities to implement the action are described in detail in the Environmental Assessment (pages 4-6).

III. AUTHORITIES

The following sources provide direct authority for the BLM to improve, treat, and/or protect resources on lands it manages:

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-47; 83 Stat. 852; P.L. 91-190).
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.).
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701. et seq.).

IV. PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives conform to the Record of Decision. There is no land use plan covering BLM lands in Western Washington. In accordance with land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.8 (b) (1)), when an action is proposed on public lands not covered by an existing land use plan, an environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement if necessary, plus any other data and analysis necessary to make an informed decision, will be used to assess the impacts of the proposal and to provide a basis for a decision on the proposal. I have also determined that the proposed action is consistent with the plans and policies of neighboring local, county, state, tribal and federal agencies and governments.

III. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The EA for the Project considered two alternatives: a No Action Alternative, and a Proposed Action Alternative. The No Action alternative provides for an assessment of the effects of not implementing construction of new toileting facilities. This alternative provides a benchmark, enabling the decision maker to compare the magnitude of the environmental effects of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action alternative includes construction of two new pit toilets and conversion of the vault toilet into a storage shed. This alternative includes construction plans that minimize disturbance and restore disturbed areas in the action area.

The BLM also considered changing the existing toileting facilities to portable toilets or designating Patos Island as a Pack in, Pack out site as alternatives but found that neither would meet the Purpose and Need for this project and therefore were not analyzed in detail.

IV. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The decision to approve the proposed action is based upon the following: 1) the purpose and need for the action 2) national policy; 3) agency statutory requirements; 3) relevant resource 4)

application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts; and 5) finding of no significant impact. The Proposed Action was chosen as being the most environmentally sound alternative that would accomplish the purpose and need described above.

V. AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Record are available for review online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/index.php>.

VI. APPEALS

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Wenatchee Field Office, 915 N. Walla Walla Ave., Wenatchee, Washington 98801, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Wenatchee Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413); Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 607, 500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

/s/ Linda Coates-Markle

Linda Coates-Markle
Field Manager

September 18, 2012

Date